

Indian police seize 2.3 tonnes of explosives

BOMBAY (R) — In one of the world's biggest such hauls, Indian police seized 2.3 tonnes of explosives found hidden in a creek north of Bombay, three weeks after a bombing blitz in the city killed 250 people.

"It would have been like the apocalypse," said one police officer helping to weigh the large cache estimated by police to be worth \$6.4 million.

Indian intelligence officials believe the plastic explosives were smuggled into the country, probably from Pakistan.

Bombay police chief Amarjeet Singh Samra said the amount of explosives and weapons recovered since the March 12 bombing blitz in which 1,400 people were injured showed that those who planned the blasts were preparing for what amounted to an unconventional war. The latest haul took the amount of explosives recovered to 3.8 tonnes, along with 438 hand grenades, 10,000 rounds of ammunition and 1,100 detonators.

"It's very obvious that something very sinister was cooking up," said Bombay deputy police chief M.N. Singh. "The bombings of March 12 were just the beginning and not the end, because the explosives we have found were intended to be used."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Volume 17 Number 5273

AMMAN SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 1993, SHA'WAL 11, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Crown Prince returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein was at the airport Friday evening to receive their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath upon their return from Vienna following a private visit to Austria during which Prince Hassan delivered an address at the International Conference of Islamic-Christian Dialogue which was held there last month. The three-day conference was attended by a large number of personalities from the Arab and Islamic worlds as well as those interested in inter-faith dialogue.

U.N. team remains long-term in Iraq

MANAMA (AP) — A senior U.N. weapons inspector returned from Baghdad Friday after posting a second interim monitoring team to assess Iraq's ballistic weapons programmes and ensure that it does not resume production of prohibited long-range missiles. But the inspector, Nikita Smidovich, said placement of interim teams would not free Iraq of obligations to recognise Security Council Resolution 715, which requires a long-term monitoring programme. The latest five-man team — led by American Dennis Vincent and comprising two Americans, two Russians and a German — is a means by which the U.N. special commission is filling the gap until Iraq officially endorses Resolution 715. The resolution would institute a long-term stringent monitoring plan that the commission has devised to guarantee Iraq does not try to revive its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes or missiles of a range of 150 kilometres or more, prohibited by the Gulf war ceasefire.

5 Saudis beheaded for drug smuggling

RIYADH (AP) — Five Saudi Arabians were beheaded Friday in the northwestern city of Tabuk after they were convicted of drug smuggling, the Interior Ministry announced. The announcement affirmed the kingdom's determination to combat drugs with the stiffest penalties, warning that similar fate would await anyone involved in smuggling or peddling the drug. The kingdom introduced the death penalty for drug dealers in the mid-1980s and has since executed some 60 found guilty of the crime. Most were Pakistanis.

Yemeni tribesmen kidnap Total oil workers

SANAA (AP) — Yemeni tribesmen kidnapped six foreign employees working under contract for the French oil company Total but released them on the same day, sources close to the company said Friday. The total oil rig is operated for the Paris-based company by the U.S. firm Nabors Drilling, and the six who were kidnapped most likely were U.S. nationals, the sources said. The kidnappings occurred near March 400 150 kilometres east of the capital Sanaa, said the sources. They said the workers were kidnapped Thursday morning and released at night after Total officials agreed to meet the tribesmen's demands for jobs.

Algerian gang frees 1 of 12 bank hostages

ALGIERS (R) — Heavily armed robbers released Friday one of 12 hostages they have held for two days in a bank southwest of Algiers, the Algerian news agency APS said. Miss Ba Ahmad Sanaa, a 24-year-old employee at the branch of the Banque Nationale d'Algérie in Al Moudoun, 55 kilometres from Algiers, was "apparently unwell" and taken to hospital in the capital, APS said, quoting a security source on the spot. It added that nearby residents had been evacuated. Anti-terrorist police units, paramilitary gendarmes and soldiers ringed the building which the robbers, believed to be Muslim fundamentalists, raided Wednesday, APS said. Algerians said Thursday that 10 bank employees, including two women, and two customers were being held hostage. It said the robbers, "five or seven terrorists armed with automatic pistols, shotguns and probably sub-machineguns," had refused "any dialogue or compromise."

Israel maintains blockade of Palestinians; hundreds held

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Soldiers enforcing a ban on Palestinians from the occupied territories entering Israel rounded up hundreds of Palestinian men and boys Friday in house-to-house searches at Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

In occupied Jerusalem, a European Community (EC) team ended a three-day Middle East tour saying it believed Arabs and Israelis were eager to resume Middle East peace talks. But both Israelis and Palestinians were cool to the team's pleas for flexibility (see separate story).

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin indefinitely barred the nearly two million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel this week in response to violence that has taken the lives of 76 Palestinians and 17 Israelis since he expelled 415 alleged Muslim activists to Lebanon in December.

Palestinian leaders likened the ban to a "massive collective punishment," and called it a new obstacle to the peace talks suspended since the expulsion.

Soldiers who took part in the Shati raid in the Gaza Strip said such actions reminded Palestinians who was in charge.

"Operations like this preserve our deterrent force," a colonel identified as "Y" told Israel Radio from Shati, home to 50,000

of the 750,000 Palestinians who live in the strip.

Palestinians said hundreds of males, aged 15 to 40, were detained in Shati during a curfew. The colonel said most would be released after questioning about wanted activists.

Military commentator Ze'ev Schiff wrote in Israel's Haaretz newspaper Friday: "What is happening today in the Gaza Strip is in practice a battle for future conditions of withdrawal." The item was headlined "A lost war in Gaza."

Police have detained more than 500 Palestinians while enforcing the seal on the occupied territories. The army said it was heaping up forces and loosening open-fire rules.

Palestinians warned that the closure of the occupied lands could stir more violence and encourage extremists who oppose peace talks.

"I think the closure is an escalation of collective punishment," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiators. "It will contribute to the causes that ... have created the cycle of violence."

Hundreds also were turned away or searched at roadblocks while trying to get to work despite the closure.

The army sent more forces to the occupied lands but declined to say how many. Israel Televi-

sion said the troops would actively seek out wanted Palestinians by conducting more house-to-house searches.

Soldiers also were given permission to fire without warning at armed Palestinians, military officials said.

Israel imposed the indefinite closure — which has kept 100,000 Palestinians from jobs in Israel and disrupted Israel's farming and building industries — in response to the stabbing and shooting deaths of Israelis.

But the group behind most of the attacks on Israelis and a main target of the expulsion said it was unbowed.

The Ezzeddin Al Qassam Brigades, an armed wing of the militant Hamas movement, said in a statement circulated in Gaza: "Our enemy has become afraid and terror fills his heart."

"The Ezzeddin Al Qassam Brigades have taken responsibility for most of the recent attacks on Israelis."

"The state of general alertness declared by our brigades in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the expulsion of 400 of Palestine's stars has begun to bear fruit," the group said in a statement circulated in Gaza.

Mr. Rabin expelled the Palestinians, accusing them of links to Hamas and other Islamic groups that killed five soldiers.

EC hopes Mideast peace talks resume April 20

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A European Community (EC) team ended a three-day Middle East tour Friday, saying it believed Arabs and Israelis were eager to return to the negotiating table soon.

Members of the EC "troika" said after talks with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin they had hoped to help restart 17-month-old peace talks suspended over Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon in December.

"Our belief from the talks that we had with all sides is that there is a genuine will to arrive at a situation which enables the peace talks to be resumed on the 20th of April," said Hans van den Broek, EC external affairs commissioner.

"Our feeling is that there is a good chance negotiations will be resumed, and we believe it is very necessary," said Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen, who led the group.

The delegation urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to speed up the return of the expelled, still stranded in Lebanon, and called on Palestinians during meetings in Arab East Jerusalem to return to the talks.

Israel Radio said earlier the European drew a frosty response from Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin on efforts to spur Israeli-Palestinian talks by proposing mutual goodwill gestures amid rising violence.

"No gestures," the radio quoted Mr. Rabin as telling the EC officials late Thursday.

"Don't expect us to pay for the Palestinian's participation in the talks in a situation of terror and unshed knives — our first obligation is to the security of the public," he said.

The United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the talks, have invited Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians to resume negotiations on April 20 but the Arabs have yet to accept the invitations.

The Palestinians want Israel to promise to refrain from future expulsions but Mr. Rabin refuses.

Mr. Petersen said: "It is our view in the European Community that it is of extreme importance that the peace negotiations are now resumed and that we see substantive talks and progress in these talks."

"The Palestinians cannot escape part of the responsibility for the recent deterioration of the security situation. They must cooperate in stopping violence and terrorist acts," Mr. Petersen said Thursday.

The delegation visited Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

Suspect sought in New York bombing

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The latest suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing was in the U.S. government's grasp but was turned loose while his request for political asylum was considered. He has not been heard from since.

As authorities pressed a worldwide search for Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, he and three Arab co-defendants were ordered Thursday to stand trial Sept. 14. The judge in the case also ordered participants not to reveal details of the case.

The co-defendants are being held under arrest.

Mr. Yousef, a 25-year-old Iraqi native, entered the United States from Pakistan in September but had no visa and was held at New York's Kennedy airport, said Rosemary Laguardia, a spokeswoman for the Immigration and Naturalisation Services (INS).

As in many such cases, Mr. Yousef was released because the airport detention centre did not have room for him while he awaited a hearing on his request for asylum. Mr. Laguardia said. A judge ruled he could be denied entry after he failed to attend three hearings, she said.

Federal officials say the immigration system is increasingly burdened by thousands of foreigners who arrive with few or no documents but get in under a law granting entry to anyone seeking political asylum. Such foreigners often fail to appear at their hearings. The New York Times, citing unidentified sources, reported Mr. Yousef worked as a taxi driver in the New York area (see page 2).

The fugitive, who lived in Jersey City, was indicted Wednesday in the bombing. Three of Mr. Yousef's co-defendants appeared Thursday in federal court in New York relaxed and even laughing at times. Lawyers entered innocent pleas for Mohammad Salameh, 25; Nidal Ayyad, 25; and Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33, the alleged organizer of the Feb. 26 bombing at the twin 110-storey towers, New York's tallest. The attack killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Mr. Ayyad is a naturalised American citizen. Abu Halima is from Egypt, and Mr. Salameh is Jordanian.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in an interview published Friday, said Mr. Abu Halima made "sensational confessions" about the attack before he was returned to the United States from Egypt (See page 2).

But the president's spokesman, Abdul Aziz Murad, said: "The list hasn't reached the government. Negotiations are still going on."

More than 5,000 people have been killed and tens of thousands wounded in battles that followed the Muslim rebels' victory over the former communist rulers in April 1992.



An Israeli officer gives orders to his unit looking after Palestinian detainees in Ramallah in the West Bank (photo above). In the occupied Gaza Strip, an elderly Palestinian man walks through a street not noticing an Israeli patrol passing by (AFP photos).



Yeltsin appeals to business ahead of Clinton summit

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin marshalled support in his battle against conservative lawmakers Friday, ahead of a weekend summit with his most powerful international ally, U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Clinton has already said he would form a "strategic alliance" with Mr. Yeltsin at their Vancouver summit and that America's best interests lie in acting to bolster reform.

Mr. Yeltsin appealed to the post-communist nation's emerging private sector to back him against headline foes in a national referendum on who rules Russia.

Russia's salvation lay in creating a market economy based on private property, he said.

Hours before his departure, Mr. Yeltsin issued a plea to businessmen to back him against communist and ultra-nationalist

parliament leaders in a referendum on political power this month.

"Our only salvation lies not in a return to the past and not in a resurrection of ineffective state bureaucratic economy but in a movement towards a market economy based on private property," said his statement, read by aide Sergei Filatov.

"I believe that despite the difficulties, despite the mistakes which we have failed to avoid in the course of economic reform, this course will be right."

Mr. Filatov, in his own comments, said it was clear Mr. Yeltsin viewed the private sector as his "natural and active supporters" in the April 25 poll he hopes will help settle his power struggle with the conservative-dominated top legislature.

An attempt by the 1,033-

member Congress of People's Deputies to impeach Mr. Yeltsin failed by just 72 votes. Deputies accuse him of dragging Russia into an economic abyss with drastic market reforms after decades of communism.

The embattled president's pro-market tone was sure to go down well with the U.S. presidential team, also heading for Vancouver for Saturday's summit.

Mr. Yeltsin and Clinton talked by telephone earlier and agreed urgent economic problems would top the agenda. Russian news agencies reported. The U.S. president is expected to unveil a plan for helping Russia at the end of the two-day exchange.

U.S. administration officials said Mr. Clinton's aid plan was expected to include more than \$500 million for the fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, as well as

\$700 million pencilled in for the next fiscal year.

Although last week's stormy congress session ended without Mr. Yeltsin's impeachment, Prime Minister Viktor Chornomyrdin told local officials in Russia's second city St. Petersburg that danger still lurked in the run-up to the referendum.

"We were on the edge of the abyss and, although common-sense won the day, the last warning bell has rung. We can no longer live in this atmosphere," he said.

The congress rewrote — and neutered — the referendum proposal Mr. Yeltsin had hoped would rid him of a supreme legislative body left over from the former Soviet Union. The president wants a single, two-chamber parliament instead.

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Mubarak says Abu Halima made 'sensational blast confessions'

BEIRUT (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in a newspaper interview published Friday that suspect Mahmoud Abu Halima made "sensational confessions" about the World Trade Centre bombing before he was turned over to U.S. authorities.

"But I am not at liberty to disclose these confessions now because U.S. investigation into the bombing is still under way," Mr. Mubarak told the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper.

The Lebanese-run Arabic language daily said Mr. Mubarak spoke in an exclusive interview conducted in London Thursday on the eve of his talks with British Prime Minister John Major before flying on to the United States.

Asked whether Mr. Abu Halima's confession to Egyptian police interrogators would help him in the Feb. 26 bombing that killed six people and injured more than 1,000 on Islamic fundamentalists, Mr. Mubarak said: "He (Abu Halima) told of how the operation was carried out and of those who carried it out."

Questioned whether that meant the Islamic group of blind Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the fiery preacher of a New Jersey mosque, was linked to the bombing, Mr. Mubarak replied: "It seems so. I don't want to go further than that."

Mr. Mubarak denied that Egypt turned Mr. Abu Halima over to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in order to seek the extradition to Egypt of Sheikh Abdul Rahman, saying "Abu

Halima himself asked to be sent back to the United States to prove his innocence."

The Egyptian president also asserted that he would not bring up the possibility of seeking Sheikh Abdul Rahman's extradition in his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington.

Although Mr. Abu Halima has Egyptian and German nationalities in addition to U.S. residence papers, Mr. Mubarak said Egyptian legal experts had concluded the man should be considered American because of his permanent residence with his German wife and four children in the United States.

Mr. Abu Halima came to Alexandria, Egypt, from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with a U.S. passport March 11 after a 12-year absence, Mr. Mubarak said.

"Egyptian authorities, tipped about Abu Halima's suspected role in the World Trade Centre bombing, summoned him to investigation. When police faced him with the bombing charges, Abu Halima gave plenty of information about the case and insisted he wanted to go back to America to clear himself," Mr. Mubarak said.

He said he was to discuss Friday with Mr. Major and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd possible ways to resolve the crisis arising from Libya's alleged involvement in the Dec. 21, 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland in which 270 people were killed.

Mr. Mubarak said the United

States and Britain have assured him that they were not trying to topple Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi but wanted him to turn over two Libyans suspected of engineering the bombing.

Mr. Mubarak warned that Egypt would retaliate against Iran and Sudan for their alleged assistance to Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists responsible for waves of extremist attacks in Egypt.

"We will hit back in the appropriate manner and time, but we are not going to employ terrorist methods as Iran and Sudan are doing. We are not terrorists," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak said he was convinced Israel and its Arab adversaries would reach a comprehensive peace this year.

He said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad wants peace and PLO leader Yasser Arafat wants a solution.

They want a move that would help in the question of the deportees. So I will bring this up with the U.S. president and offer my ideas," Mr. Mubarak said. He would not spell out the ideas.

The United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, have invited the parties involved to a ninth round of negotiations in Washington April 20.

But the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the PLO resolved in a conference they held in Damascus earlier this week to delay a united response pending the outcome of Mr. Mubarak's talks in Washington.

ICRC halts Kismayu operations

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has halted relief work in Kismayu because of a new outbreak of fighting in the southern Somalia port, a spokesman said Friday.

Erich Durst, an ICRC spokesman in Mogadishu, the capital, said hand-grenades were lobbed into the ICRC office compound in Kismayu Wednesday but no one was injured.

He said two ICRC expatriate workers were taking refuge in the organisation's Kismayu residence under the protection of Belgian forces. Five more had fled to neighbouring Kenya until relief work was resumed.

"At the office, we have taken our flag down and no one is working," Mr. Durst said.

Belgian troops have evacuated about 1,000 supporters of warlord Omar Jess, mainly women and children, from Kismayu after new clashes between Jess supporters and forces loyal to rival warlord Mohammed Said Hersi.

Several deaths have been reported in the fighting, but a U.S. military spokesman could not confirm them.

"We have heard that some bodies, possibly supporters of Jess, were buried near the police station, a stronghold of Jess, but we have no further details," the spokesman said.

A 4,200-strong U.S. amphibious force is on standby in the Kismayu region in case the situation deteriorates, he added.

Violence in Kismayu has been a stumbling block to peace in Somalia. More than 100 people died in February when Gen. Morgan's forces ousted Jess supporters from the port.

Clashes last month in which about 50 people were wounded temporarily derailed peace talks in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

Somalia's 15 warring factions announced stiff penalties Thursday for groups which violated a ceasefire agreement signed in January. Groups which break the truce will have aid blocked and be forced to pay compensation

4,000 Americans to remain

Some 4,000 U.S. troops will remain in Somalia through 1994 to safeguard the delivery of food to the starving country, says army General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Meanwhile, President Bill Clinton said in a letter released by a congressman Thursday that the United States was winding down its role in Somalia, and most American troops would leave the war-torn country shortly.

New shadowy Iranian group claims attacks

WHO OR WHAT is the Babak Khoramdin Organisation, the shadowy underground group which, with increasing stridency, claims to be terrorising the leadership of Iran's Islamic regime? In little more than six months of existence, the BKO has yet to surface to show its face.

Only a handful of communiqués — sometimes in English but more often in Farsi — provide proof of its existence. But in its latest "operational statements," issued over the past two weeks, the BKO claims that its guerrillas have reached to the very heart of the clerical regime.

The BKO says its most important act so far was an explosion on March 17 at the residence of Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's spiritual leader.

According to its latest communique, the BKO said that, although the ayatollah escaped injury, at least five people were

killed, two of them brothers of Mohammad Hussein Mousavian, Iran's ambassador to Germany.

The explosion was said to have occurred during an iftar party, marking the end of daily fasting during the Holy Month of Ramadan. In its reaction to the incident, which was first reported by the exiled former president, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the Iranian official media said rumours of the explosion stemmed from the squads of fireworks set off to mark the start of the Iranian New Year. But according to the BKO, a powerful explosive device had been taken into the heavily guarded residence by one of the guests. He was alleged to have died under torture six days after his arrest. Despite the absence of official confirmation of the attack, Iranian newspapers have carried condolence messages addressed to Mr. Mousavian on the death of his brothers.

The BKO has subsequently claimed responsibility for the assassination of Revolutionary Guard Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Reza Fadaei, one of the senior commanders in charge of state security.

As an unprecedented wave of anti-regime activities spreads alarm among the ruling mullahs, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a leading cleric close to Ayatollah Khomeini, warned last Friday that "criminal hands are out of other sleeves to kill our beloved leaders, to terrorise the Muslim people and to end the rule of Islam."

On the basis of its communiqués, the BKO appears to be a secular, nationalist group. Its coat of arms is an electric mix of Persian and religious symbols — an imperial lion and sword, topped with a shrine and minaret. It takes its name from the historic

figure, Babak Khoramdin, who led a revolt against the Arab and Islamic domination of Persia. The group does not appear to be overtly monarchist and there are no indications that it enjoys foreign support.

Until now the main opposition group claiming to undertake armed action against the regime is People's Mujahedeen, once condemned by the late Shah as Islamic Marxists but now on increasingly friendly terms with Washington.

Iranian sources say the BKO does not aspire to mounting a coup d'état but want to show the clergy that it cannot ignore the will of the people. One informed estimate is that the BKO draws its strength from relatively young veterans of the Iran-Iraq war who became disillusioned during that conflict about the direction the revolution was taking. — The Independent.

Four alleged Abu Nidal members held in U.S. midwest

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Four alleged members of the Abu Nidal group have been charged in America's heartland with plotting to kill Jews and blow up an Israeli embassy. One of them fatally stabbed his daughter, shouting "die, my daughter, die," so she would reveal his secret, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said.

That was a sharp difference from the motive offered by state prosecutors who convicted the father in 1991. They had said the killing resulted from a clash of cultures between her fundamentalist Muslim parents and the Westernised girl, 16-year-old Palestina "Tina" Isa.

The indictments unsealed Thursday are believed to be the first of suspected Abu Nidal members in the United States, FBI agent James W. Nelson said.

The Abu Nidal organisation, which broke away from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1973, was described by a state department report in 1989 as the world's most dangerous group. Abu Nidal was the name taken by the group's leader, Sabri al Banna.

Among the group's acts, the report said, was the killing of 21 people in the bombing of an Istanbul, Turkey, synagogue in 1986.

The stated purpose of Abu Nidal is to kill Jews anywhere and everywhere," Mr. Nelson said. The indictments accused the four of running a racketeering enterprise that included the 16-year-old girl's death and conspiring to kill Jews, blow up the Israeli embassy in Washington, and buy weapons and smuggle money to other Abu Nidal members.

It said the four also planned to kill anyone within the group or outside who could expose the plots. The girl's death was the only alleged to have been carried out.

The indictment was issued Wednesday but remained sealed until the defendants were in custody. They are Tina Isa's father, Zein Isa, 61, who is on death row; Saif Nijmeh, 32, arrested at his St. Louis county home; Luie Nijmeh, 29, arrested at his Miami-Burg, Ohio, home; and Tawfik Musa, 43, arrested in Racine, Wisconsin. All four are of Palestinian descent.

Mr. Musa and the Nijmehs were being held without bond pending hearings next week. They face life in prison and fines if convicted. FBI agents investigating

whether Zein Isa was involved in the PLO had bugged his family's St. Louis apartment and captured on audio tape his daughter's killing there in November 1989.

The chilling seven-minute tape, played for the state jurors, and other testimony indicated that the dispute focused on the girl taking a job and having a black boyfriend.

The girl's mother, Maria Isa, who is Brazilian, allegedly held the girl down while the father stabbed her. Amid sounds of a struggle and Tina's screams, Mr. Zein Isa could be heard shouting in Arabic to the girl: "Die die quickly die, my daughter, die."

The mother also was convicted in the killing, though the Missouri supreme court overturned her death sentence last week, saying the jury received flawed instructions.

No mention was made on the tape of killing the girl to keep her quiet, said Bob Craddock, the assistant St. Louis circuit attorney who tried the murder case. But he said the FBI had other tapes it did not give to the state.

The FBI's Nelson said the girl was killed to keep her from talking to authorities about her father's ties to Abu Nidal. The indictment said the de-

sion to kill Tina began with an Oct. 16, 1989, meeting between Saif Nijmeh and Mr. Musa in which "Nijmeh advised that Tina Isa be killed."

The defendants allegedly received some of their instructions from a man named Mahmoud Atta in Mexico City in April 1987, the indictment said.

Mr. Musa also directed a co-conspirator to meet with Abu Nidal leaders in Algeria, the indictment said.

The defendants also are accused of planning since about November 1986 "to murder any and all individuals of Jewish extraction."

According to the indictment, Luie Nijmeh spoke with a co-conspirator about blowing up the Israeli embassy and Saif Nijmeh met with co-conspirators to discuss a rocket-propelled grenade launcher he had obtained.

Other counts in the indictment included sending more than \$10,000 out of the country without filing customs forms, interstate travel in aid of racketeering and making a false statement in a passport application.

Mr. Nelson said the four suspects have no known link to any Abu Nidal act. He said the investigation was continuing, and he would not release further details.

'Little guy' gets priority in Iraq claims

GENEVA (USIA) — An international panel has been appointed to examine individual claims for compensation of losses sustained as a result of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The panel is part of the U.N. Compensation Commission, a subsidiary body of the U.N. that is establishing the procedures for providing war damages. The number of claims filed already has reached 700,000, commission officials said at a press conference Thursday, and that figure could double. They added that they hoped that the appointment of the new panel would give "new momentum" to processing the claims.

The nine jurists and experts on the panel will study the claims filed by three groups: The more than one million foreign workers who had to leave Kuwait and Iraq because of Iraq's invasion, individuals who suffered serious injuries or the death of relatives,

and those with small claims for losses of less than \$100,000 each.

These three categories make up "the most important part of the claims from a humanitarian view," according to the current president of the commission, Spanish diplomat Fernando Valenzuela.

Many of the foreign workers who were forced to leave Kuwait and Iraq originally travelled to those countries at great personal expenses, sometimes incurring debts in order to do so. "Overnight they lost everything: jobs, possessions, savings and especially the hope of a better life," said the head of the commission's secretariat, Peruvian diplomat Carlos Alzamora. Referring to the decision to process individual claims first, he said it marked "the first time the priority has been given to the little guy."

The commission will also consider claims above \$100,000 and those from businesses, governments and international agencies,

but specific panels for those categories have not yet been appointed.

The commission has said that it expects claims to reach a total value of \$100,000 million, but Mr. Alzamora said that figure was "pure speculation," since not all the claims were in.

Compensation is to be paid from a fund established by the Security Council and financed on the basis of 30 per cent of every barrel of oil exported by Iraq. Because of the embargo imposed on Iraq since the invasion, and Iraq's refusal to export the oil, \$1,600 million worth of oil authorised by the Security Council under conditions imposed on it, the fund has not received anything from Iraq. Commission officials also said their access to frozen Iraqi funds deposited in various countries had been delayed. In principle those funds have been put at the Compensation Commission's disposal by the Security Council.

Indictment names new suspect in New York bombing

Compiled from U.S. newspapers

NEW YORK — Federal prosecutors in Manhattan Thursday released a new indictment that names a new suspect in Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre.

Reindicted in the superseding charge were Mohammed Salameh, 25; Nidal Ayyad, 25; and Mahmoud Abu Halima, 33. They were charged with a single count of causing the bombing, which killed six people, injured more than 1,000 and demolished an underground parking garage. They have pleaded not guilty and remain in custody.

The new suspect in Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, 25, who also was cited in the new indictment. Authorities said Mr. Yousef had resided at the same New Jersey City, New Jersey, address once occupied by Mr. Salameh. He had not previously been identified in the probe and was not in custody last night. Authorities told Reuters he is believed to have fled, possibly

to Egypt. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

In response to questions about the contents of a letter to the New York Times purportedly threatening further attacks, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director William S. Sessions told the Associated Press: "We have no evidence that a large group in the United States is preparing for a wave of terrorist attacks. However, the magnitude of the World Trade Centre attack naturally heightens the level of concern and awareness for all U.S. citizens."

Investigators said that naming Mr. Yousef significantly fleshes out the size of the plot. "The core group has been identified," a federal source said.

Government sources said that Mr. Yousef was a roommate of Mr. Salameh, who is accused of renting the van believed used to transport the bomb that exploded at the trade centre on Feb. 26. Investigators said Mr. Yousef may have fled the country. No

details were provided about his alleged role in the bomb plot.

Mr. Yousef's indictment came as the FBI sought Wednesday to ally concerns raised by the letter claiming responsibility for the blast. That letter, received by the New York Times four days after the bombing, threatened further terrorist attacks on military, civilian and nuclear targets in the United States and abroad.

The one-page communique criticised U.S. support for Israel and "the rest of the dictator countries in the region." And, in sometimes awkward English, it claimed that "our army has more than a hundred and fifty suicidal soldiers" ready to attack American targets.

The letter demanded a halt to all military, economic and political aid to Israel as well as the severing of diplomatic relations with the Jewish state. It insisted that the United States must not interfere with the "interior affairs" of any Middle East country. The letter was signed "Li-

beration Army Fifth Battalion."

Sources close to the trade centre investigation said that investigators have linked the letter to Mr. Ayyad, a chemical engineer who shared several bank accounts with Mr. Salameh and whose business card was found in Mr. Salameh's wallet when he was seized.

Mr. Yousef, travelling on an Iraqi passport, arrived in New York from Karachi aboard a Pakistani Air flight on Sept. 1, 1992, said Immigration and Naturalisation Service spokeswoman Rosemary LaGuardia.

A review of his passport showed he left Iraq at the end of April and travelled to Jordan for four days before flying to Pakistan. He paid a Pakistani Air official \$2,700 for a boarding pass, arriving without an immigration visa, she said.

At John F. Kennedy International airport Mr. Yousef sought asylum, was given an exclusion hearing date, and was released "due to our lack of detention space," Ms. LaGuardia said.

U.S. diplomats met with Egyptian Muslim extremists

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. diplomats have met with members of the banned Muslim extremist Al-Gamma Al Islamiya that is seeking to topple Egypt's secular government, sources close to the militants said Friday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the meetings started in late 1991 at the request of the U.S. embassy in Cairo but stopped last June.

The banned Islamic Group wants to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's moderate government, a close ally of the United States, and replace it with an Iran-like theocracy.

The group's spiritual leader is Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind cleric who preaches at a New Jersey Mosque where at

least 700 suspects in New York's Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing attended prayers.

The sources said diplomats from the mission's political section represented the U.S. side during the talks that took place at the office of a Cairo lawyer.

The U.S. embassy refused on the record comment. But a U.S. official told the Associated Press she did not know about any such meeting.

"To my knowledge the U.S. mission in Cairo has never had contact or sought to have contact with the Islamic Gamaa," she said.

The Egyptian sources said the U.S. diplomats wanted information about the group's political aims, its strategy and how its

members were affected by the human rights situation in Egypt.

The State Department issues annual human rights reports. The last two noted that Egyptian authorities torture Muslim fundamentalists while in custody to extract information on their movement.

The sources said that after the meetings halted, the Islamic Group tried to contact the State Department in Washington directly but apparently failed.

Communication between the U.S. mission and the militants ceased at the time that the extremists started targeting foreign tourists as part of their violence campaign.

The Islamic Group, which has an estimated 200,000 followers

with 10,000 prone to violence among Egypt's 58 million people, has traditionally attacked police and Christian Copts. But it turned against tourists last summer to embarrass the government abroad and deprive it of its main source of hard currency.

Tourism has dropped by up to 50 per cent since the militants killed a British nurse in October in an ambush on her tour bus in southern Egypt. Six Germans were wounded in a similar attack less than a month later.

The most violent act linked to the militants was a blast in a coffee house in downtown Cairo that killed a Turk and a Swede.

More than 150 people have been killed and 230 wounded in clashes over the past 15 months.

Egypt arrests 700 militant suspects in one month

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has rounded up 700 militant suspects in recent weeks, security sources said Friday, and President Hosni Mubarak blamed recent unrest on Iran and Sudan.

Police detained 200 suspects in Cairo and its suburbs alone over the past five days, the security sources said.

The latest arrests brought the overall number of suspects seized since an anti-militant crackdown began in March to 700, including 300 in the southern Egyptian towns of Assiut and Assuan.

About 200 were detained in Cairo during March which witnessed the bloodiest surge of violence with 45 people, includ-

ing 29 militants, killed in raids, shootings, bomb attacks and clashes.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat, Mr. Mubarak accused Muslim-fundamentalist Iran of financing and guiding militants and Sudan of providing them with training camps with the aim of toppling moderate Arab governments.

He said militants attacking foreign tourists in Egypt were directed by "group abroad" and that most of them had served in Afghanistan.

Mr. Mubarak said Sudan was facilitating the entry through its borders of Egyptian militants

coming from Pakistan to carry out violent actions.

Security officials had said that Egyptian militants were partly directed by leaders in exile in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Among them are Mohammad Shawki Islambuli, brother of the man who led the assassins of late President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Mr. Mubarak said Sudan was operating militant training camps in agricultural lands. "They bring in militants under camouflage of workers, give them ammunition and train them with the help of Iranians," Mr. Mubarak said.

He said the militants attacking foreign tourists in Egypt were "being exploited by outside

forces giving them wrong advice."

"They lure them by giving them small amounts of money to carry out bomb attacks, hit a tourist bus and attack people," Mr. Mubarak said.

Addressing young Egyptian militants, Mr. Mubarak said: "Those who are pushing you to do these acts are not telling you that you will eventually pay a dear price."

"We tell you that whoever tries to use force to impose his thoughts will not succeed because the government is stronger," warned Mr. Mubarak, currently on a foreign tour.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 ... Les Aventures de L'Espace
18:30 ... Envoyé Spécial
19:00 ... News in French
19:15 ... Fendersat
19:30 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
20:30 ... Super Show
21:00 ... Perspectives
21:30 ... Saturday Variety Show
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Feature Film "Lad in a Corner"

PRAYER TIMES

04:59 ... Fair
06:18 ... (Sunrise) Duhur
12:30 ... Dhuhur
16:12 ... Asr
19:00 ... Maghrib
20:19 ... Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church - N. ed.ish. Tel. 810741
Assemblies of God Church. Tel. 637285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624980
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661257

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation. Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 63851

Anglican Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place as winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ... Min./Max. temp. 6 / 19

Aqaba ... 13 / 27

Deserts ... 5 / 21

Jordan Valley ... 11 / 24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

man 17, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ahmad Yousef ... 786384

Dr. Muhammad Imran ... 612232

Dr. Walid Kawan ... 885446

Dr. Abba Hakeem ... 661912

Meeting to review Arab trade future

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a two-day meeting to open in Abu Dhabi Monday by a technical cooperation committee charged with the task of promoting trade links among Arab countries.

A statement here Friday said that Awad Abu Obeid, Jordan's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), will lead the Jordanian delegation of three representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman.

Representatives of all the Arab countries, in addition to concerned Arab organisations and United Nations agencies, will be attending the meeting, organised by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said the statement.

A report on future inter-Arab trade prepared and compiled by the UNDP together with several Arab and international organisations, will be discussed at the meeting.

The UNDP is proposing several ideas and plans aimed at promoting inter-Arab trade involving Arab organisations, the statement added.

It said that the participants will also discuss such topics as developing the human and material resources of the Arab World, aid to poor Arab countries to help them boost their trade activities and economic integration of the Arab World.

Seminar briefs media on population growth problems

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Experts agree that the population growth rate in the Arab countries is among the highest in the world and will lead to a serious decline in the quality of life of Arab citizens and an unprecedented competition for resources by the turn of the century.

To address this and similar issues and to prepare for the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, Arab professionals will meet in Amman April 4-8.

An advance two-day seminar was held here Thursday and Friday for regional journalists, as they play an important role in educating the public about the negative consequences of an uncurbed population growth as well as the benefits of small well-planned families.

The seminar, held at the Royal Cultural Centre, was co-sponsored by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Arab League, and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) which contributes \$15-16 million annually to population

activities in the Arab World. Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif in his opening remarks discussed the population situation in the world in general and the region in particular, stressing the contrast between the high population growth in developing countries coupled with a decline in resources and the decline in population in the developed world.

The population situation in Jordan, as the host country of the conference, was discussed at several intervals, specifically following a presentation by Nabih Salameh, secretary general of the National Population Commission.

Mr. Salameh provided data on the birth rate, the death rate and migration in Jordan, which combined, give Jordan a population growth rate of 3.4 per cent annually.

Data presented by Mr. Salameh and by Mahmoud Issa, a UNFPA expert, indicate that Jordan has made progress and compares favourably with other Arab countries in issues related to quality of life, such as infant mortality, maternal mortality, literacy and health.

But, Mr. Salameh and Dr. Issa maintained that the country still

lacks a defined population policy, without which it is impossible to sustain current standards and make improvements in areas that are deficient.

If the current population growth continues, Jordan's population is projected to exceed 5 million by the turn of the century; a number that will be impossible to serve by already limited resources including water, food, education and health services.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Jordan's Information Minister said at the seminar that stemming population growth depends first on voluntary plans, such as birth spacing, that are adopted by families, but these cannot be imposed by laws.

Describing the level of population growth in most Arab countries as unreasonable, Mr. Sharif said this natural growth has been exacerbated through the people's migrations within the Arab World.

He explained that certain parts of the Arab World have been witnessing forced migrations caused by conflicts, famine, unemployment, religious persecution and other problems.

In addition, each Arab country continues to face migration of



Population experts Friday brief journalists for a second consecutive day on issues related to population growth (Petra photo)

people from the rural to the urban regions, he said.

Referring to the situation in Jordan, Mr. Sharif said the Kingdom in the last three years witnessed major migrations including the return of more than 300,000 people of Jordanian and Palestinian origin who were evicted from Kuwait and other Gulf states where they had lived and worked most of their lives.

The influx of these returnees to Jordan has caused the country significant problems, he said.

adding that these added difficulties came at a time when Jordan was struggling with problems pertaining to housing, water supplies and basic services to its resident population.

Jordan however, continues in its commitment to improve the situation of its citizens, which are, after all, its most precious resource.

One example of Jordan's commitment was given by Abdul Muneim Abu Nuwar, the UNFPA deputy chief of the Division

for Arab States and Europe.

"UNFPA relies on the donations of countries for its funding. Of the Arab World, only Jordan and Egypt are major donors, giving over \$50,000 per year, reflecting a strong belief and commitment to the UNFPA and its progress," he said.

An ESCWA press release said the opening of the April 4 conference will be at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Health minister returns from Cairo meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Aref Al Bataineh Friday returned to Amman from Cairo after attending the 17th session of the Arab Health Ministers Council which was held at the Arab League headquarters. Dr. Bataineh said the council discussed an Arab strategy for health development, the health conditions of Arab citizens in the Israeli-occupied territories, and ways to improve health services in some Arab countries. The council, he said, decided to allocate money for the Arab Fund for Health Development to support the health services in the occupied territories, Lebanon, Somalia and Iraq.

Freedoms panel to meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Constituent Assembly of the Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies will hold a meeting Saturday at the parliament building. The meeting was called for by the assembly's chairman, Senator Najeeb Al Rashdeen.

Envoy to Brazil presents credentials

BRASILIA (Petra) — Jordan's newly-appointed ambassador to Brazil Azmi Mirza Thursday presented his credentials to the Brazilian President. The president commended His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership and his important role in the Middle East, wishing the Jordanian government and people further progress and prosperity.

Aviation chief arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the International Aviation Organisation Assad Oatit arrived in Amman Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with senior officials on civil aviation-related issues and scopes of cooperation between the organisation and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Dr. Oatit will also be familiarised with the training courses and programmes offered by the CAA.

Arab scholars to begin cultural month

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Academy of Arabic (JAA) will begin its two-month cultural season on April 10, announced JAA President Abdul Karim Khalifa Friday. Dr. Khalifa said that this year the delegations, comprised of scholars from Jordan and the Arab-Islamic Worlds will focus their attention on the main challenges to the Arab Nation, issues related to the role of Arabic in unifying the Arab World, Arabisation of university subjects and texts, among other relevant topics. The JAA aims to bolster language, cultural and intellectual relations among scholars and cultural organisations of the Arab World, said Dr. Khalifa in his statement. The results of the cultural season and the findings of the scholars will be published in a book at the conclusion of the cultural season, he said.

3 die, 22 injured in major accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three persons were killed and 22 others were injured in a road accident which occurred Thursday on the Zarqa-Hashimiyeh Road, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily. The report quoted Director of the Civil Defence Department's (CDD) public relations office Major Nabeel Qawar as saying that a bus carrying 25 passengers crashed into a water truck parked on the side of the road. The accident led to the death of two Jordanians, Mohammad Hamzeh, 71, and Mahmoud Musleh, 27, and an Iraqi woman, Haseebah Sahen, 40.

Summer time hours set

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan switched to summer time Thursday midnight when clocks were set ahead sixty minutes. By this, Jordan is now three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

Debate continues over who should set private school fees

Ammar Jaber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Should the government intervene to fix tuition fees and teachers' salaries at private schools?

Saud Abdul Jaber, director of private education at the Ministry of Education, was noncommittal on the first part of the question, but on the second said "the contract between the teacher and the school administration should be the decisive factor in this connection."

The controversy over tuition fees started when the New English School, a private enterprise in Amman, recently raised its fees up to 60%.

Last year the school raised its fees by 20%. This substantial rise within two years prompted parents, as well as students, to protest.

During a recent Jordan Television (JTV) broadcast of the Arabic programme "Good Evening," Dr. Abdul Jaber evaded giving a clear-cut answer to the question of government intervention to fix fees.

But he said "the ministry intervenes in the interest of all concerned, the school, the parents involved, as well as the educational process itself."

He revealed that a special committee has been set up to conduct a comprehensive study of the entire issue.

The committee, he said, comprises representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, and the Union of Private School Employees.

The committee began its meetings a month ago.

Dr. Abdul Jaber asserted that the committee's decision would be binding.

Another issue that came under debate during the JTV programme dealt with a 1974 Ministry of Education decision which stipulated that private school teachers should receive a minimum salary equal to the one paid to public school teachers.

One private school owner protested that he could not pay his staff salaries equal to government teachers' salaries because he charges low tuition fees.

If he were to raise his teachers'

salaries to the government standard, the owner said he would have to raise tuition fees so that he could afford such an increase.

During the debate, some participants proposed that schools should be categorized according to the area in which they are located so that socio-economic status would be taken into consideration in determining tuition fees and teachers' salaries.

The idea was rejected by the president of the Union of Private Education Schools Owners, Subhi Asaf, who argued that a school located in a poor area could offer good education while being categorised as a second or third grade school.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, in a letter to the editor of the Jordan Times (March 6), stressed the need for maintaining a high level of education in both private and state schools.

She stated that "too much government involvement would prove pernicious to the whole fabric of a whole balanced, democratic society in which freedom of choice must prevail."

She explained that this false sense of being protected tends to the fog of importance of fighting for women's rights, and results in many women accepting the status quo and remaining passive.

There was an agreement among the lecturers and participants that women in Jordan are politically unaware.

Parliament Deputy Anwar Al Hadid said "the inability of women to secure seats in the past elections indicates that most women are politically uninformed."

Dr. Fakhouri said that more than 50 per cent of women in the village are illiterate, and it is the duty of informed women to educate them.

Sahab Shaheen, a women's rights activist, suggested issuing legislation to end illiteracy in Jordan, adding that the illiterate population is traditionally a supporter of the conservative movements.

Another 1989 candidate, Haifa Al Basheer, said "the failure of women to secure seats in parliament reflects that they are discriminated against in society."

She said "stating that all Jordanians are equal in the Constitution, is not enough. We need to have equality in practice."

Ms. Basheer added that the education of women and their work experience has made them more creative.

"Women have flourished in education and in their fields. If given the chance, they will flourish in politics," she maintained.

Ms. Basheer further described the Jordanian society as "being compassionate towards women on the outside, while being cruel in reality."

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Feminists seek united women's front

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women activists called for forming a united women's front to face internal and external challenges, at a lecture at the Charitable Association Union in Amman.

The lecture, held by the Women's Committee of the union, discussed the role of women in the parliamentary elections, insisting on inacting a quota system for women in parliament and on the need to educate women on their rights.

In the 1989 parliamentary elections, 12 women ran for seats in the 80-member Lower House: not one was a winner.

One such candidate Huda Al Fakhouri, said women candidates lacked the political experience and the money that their male counterparts had.

She explained that male candidates had more visibility since most were active in the public arena, being either ministers or political party leaders.

In addition, unlike most male candidates, female candidates were not supported financially or spiritually by political parties, she added. Dr. Fakhouri attributed these factors as being behind their failure in the elections.

"Although the results of the election were adverse," she added "the experience for the women who entered it was positive."

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Ms. Shaheen maintained that "democracy cannot exist if women and men are unequal."

The lecturers called for changing what they described as an "unjust voting law" and instituting a "modern democratic" law that will guarantee women their rights.

They demanded the inaction of the "quota system," which ensures a set number parliamentary seats for women.

"The current law gave the minorities in Jordan their rights. Why not give women their rights? The quota should be opened up to include women," Ms. Shaheen maintained.

Dr. Fakhouri said the lack of women and supporters of women's rights in Parliament has resulted in diminishing such rights in the civil status laws.

If this continues, she added, women will be completely deprived of making any decisions that affect their lives.

"This," she maintained will "take us back to the Middle Ages."

The participants in the panel called for establishing a united women's front, irrespective of women's ideologies and political affiliations, to pursue the effort of educating women and organising them to form a political agenda that focuses on women's issues.

In addition, they suggested using the media to voice their concerns to the people, especially that of inacting the quota.

They also requested from the women who are planning to enter the upcoming elections to run on a "women's issue" agenda.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Sa'eda Al Bitar Ghanem at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery, 1st Circle, opposite the Iraqi Embassy.
- Exhibition of paintings entitled "Meditating Land and Man" by plastic artist Hussein Da'sa at Baladna Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by artist Mohammad Nasrallah at Al Balqa Gallery, Fubeis City.
- Art exhibition by Nawwaf Al Bukhari at the Phoenix Art Gallery.

THEATRE

- Play entitled "The Death of Thebes" at the Royal Cultural Centre's main theatre at 8 p.m.

CONCERT

- Concert by the orchestra of the National Music Conservatory at the University of Jordan's Al Hassan Ben Talal Auditorium at 8 p.m.

WANTED FOR RENT

The American Embassy is seeking one to four bedroom unfurnished apartments and houses for its staff. The size of each type of apartment is specified below in net square metres.

The term net square meters means the sum of the square metres measured from wall to wall of the living room, dining room, bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchen and closets. Storage and utility rooms and stairs are excluded from the calculation.

Number of bedrooms	Net Square meters
One	83 to 92
Two	119 to 132
Three	174 to 191
Four	202 to 224

The most desirable apartments will have modern kitchens and bathrooms.

The Embassy prefers apartments in the Abdoun, Sweifieh, Um Utheina, Al Rabieh, Um Summaq, or Jandaweeh areas or in the areas from Fourth to Eighth Circle but will consider other near-by areas.

Offers must include the price asked, the number of bedrooms in the apartment, the net square meters, the address of the apartment or house, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner. Floor plans are desirable but not required.

The Embassy will deal only with owners. Offers should be sent to:

General Services Officer
P.O. Box 354
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جريدة الجordanية مستقلة بالتمويل من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

By Asa'ad Abdul Rahman

THE WORLD is currently witnessing several political phenomenal changes that, if analysed and studied, seem to add leverage to the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process. The changes are taking place over a large expanse of territory starting in the occupied territories and ending in the United States itself, including, of course, Europe. Political analysts can easily conclude a common denominator connecting them: They all, without exception, give increased credibility to the present efforts to end the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict.

The first of these events lies in the occupied territories where the Palestinian intifada, thanks to Israeli repression, entered its 64th month with an unprecedented escalation in violence and counter violence. The Gaza Strip, in particular, has entered a new and bloodier phase in its long war of attrition with the Israeli occupation forces.

In the first 24 hours following the lifting of the most terrible Israeli cordon, confrontations resumed violently where a Zionist settler was liquidated. Occupational violence also escalated. In the following 48 hours only, two Palestinians were shot dead and 42 wounded. This led to additional confrontations and killings.

Israeli spokesman described what is happening as "a real war" between Palestinian resistance and the Israeli occupation forces. This qualitative development gained the intifada the respect of its friends and many of its foes alike. Israel seemed so bogged down in a costly war of attrition and economic exhaustion that calls from Israeli ministers and leading opinion leaders for a unilateral withdrawal from the quagmire of the Gaza Strip were heard louder and louder.

On the other side of the River Jordan, His Majesty King Hussein showed great amount of political courage when he clarified the position of Jordan. In an interview with American NBC network, King Hussein made it absolutely clear that Jordan will not let the Palestinians down in their current showdown with the



M. KAHIL

The viability of the peace process

Phenomenal changes in Europe, the United States and the region give increased credibility to efforts to end Arab-Israeli conflict

Rabin government over the issue of the evacuees.

Jordan's participation in the forthcoming round of talks is inconceivable before the elimination of all obstacles that hinder the Palestinian participation in the talks, confirmed the King. More than any time before, the Palestinian-Jordanian solidarity seemed irreversible whether in confrontation or negotiation. This was later enforced by the last meeting of five Arab foreign ministers in Damascus to discuss peace process.

Positive events in the European continent were not hard to detect. In Belgium, bilateral talks with Palestinian representatives succeeded in strengthening and

promoting diplomatic ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Israeli pressure to the contrary was obviously unheeded.

In Britain, the meeting between Douglas Hogg (British minister for political affairs) and Faisal Al Hussein caused widespread Israeli and Zionist political uproar. It is the first such meeting on such a high level after a virtual freeze for almost two years.

Although Mr. Hussein enjoys "no official status" that connects him to the PLO, other members of the Palestinian delegation who accompanied him were official members in the PLO. A member

of the delegation is the head of the European Division in the PLO while the other is PLO's official representative in the United Kingdom.

The fact that the delegation was headed by Mr. Hussein — a native of Jerusalem — left Israel and its supporters world-wide in a state of complete restlessness. So annoyed was Israel by the level and composition of the delegation that it submitted an official remonstrance to the British ambassador to Israel.

The meeting, which caused so much uproar, came during a tour to Europe by Shimon Peres. The timing was not accidental and the message was clear: A new Euro-

pean position is in the making.

The European Community (EC) has finally decided to adopt a unified position challenging Israel and its premier Yitzhak Rabin who does not favour a strong and active European participation in the peace process ever since its inception in Madrid. This was clearly exhibited in this week's meeting between the European Troika and a Palestinian delegation headed by Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi (the Palestinian foreign minister).

On his part, Douglas Hurd, the British foreign minister, rejected the Israeli objection and confirmed — at the same time — that Britain will seize every opportunity possible to encourage the

peace process in the Middle East, a process that cannot be completed successfully without the active participation of the PLO, the legitimate representative of all Palestinians, whether residing in the occupied territories or the diaspora.

Finally, events in the American scene confirm our analysis. The reference here is to a session of special committee of the U.S. Congress entrusted with Middle East affairs with Mr. Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of the Middle East.

It seemed obvious during the session that a number of congressional members of the Democratic Party urged the American politician to speed up efforts for political settlement in the Middle East. A prominent member of the committee said that the 1973 war cost the American taxpayers between \$10-20 billion and more than 10,000 jobs in the U.S. due to the Arab oil embargo which followed.

Some members questioned the wisdom of the U.S. allocation of \$14 billion for foreign aid at a time when the economic crisis is hitting the American economy very hard.

The subsequent messages and various press releases that were uttered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Edward Djerejian in the last few days, plus the meeting with the Palestinian delegation, all indicate an increased willingness on the part of the U.S. for the continuation and activation of the peace process.

Once certain conditions (especially concerning the evacuees) are met and changed, all parties concerned (including the Palestinians) are expected to show up in Washington for the new round of talks scheduled for April 20. American and Israeli officials indicated that Israel is expected to offer substantial concessions on the issue of human rights in the occupied territories. An improvement of the conditions of the first stage of the interim self government rule will also be contemplated.

The writer is a member of the Palestine National Council.

Screwed-up thinking

CLEARLY THERE is something wrong with Israeli thinking (not that it is the first time that we notice it) if it is based on a belief that the Palestinian side would come around sooner or later to accepting resumed business-as-usual peace talks if the screws are tightened on the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. One would have thought that the decades of occupation have given enough experience and insight to the Israelis that their iron-fist policies and scorched-earth actions in the occupied territories only go to strengthen the Palestinian quest to get rid of the yoke of occupation and fuel extremism among the moderates among them.

By making life more and more difficult for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli leadership is only scoring points in ruthlessness and brutality which do not serve the cause of peace. If anything, it also makes it more and more hard for advocates of peace talks to remain steadfast in arguing that the best solution out of the decades-old conflict is through dialogue.

If indeed the Israelis have forgotten, it might be a timely reminder that one of the key demands of the Palestinians for returning to the peace negotiating table is an Israeli commitment to improving human rights conditions in the occupied territories. Such improvement, needless to say, will go a long way in convincing many Palestinians, long wary of Israeli motives, that the peace talks could perhaps be going in the right direction. On the contrary, what we have here is an escalation of the occupation power's arbitrary practices.

And the international community is not doing any service to the cause of justice for the Palestinians by maintaining a pointed silence over the total military siege that the Israelis have imposed against the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

If the Israelis are not willing to be woken up and told of the realities on the ground, then it is time someone did something else to wake them up and make them realise and accept that retaliating against anti-peace forces is not by imposing collective punishment against an entire people.

We could suggest a few avenues of action, but then we don't think the "international community," which was so shocked and stunned by "Iraqi atrocities against the Kuwaitis" that it took only a few days for vigorous punitive measures to be imposed against Baghdad, needs any lessons or suggestions from us on how to handle the "civilised" Israel and its actions against the Palestinians.

Then again, perhaps, we are totally wrong, given the record of the "international community." But, no matter anyone looks at it, the scenario of "extremism" and "terrorism" that Israeli leaders do not forget to mention whenever they open their mouth to the world is only getting closer and nearer with every day that the Palestinians are terrorised and victimised by the occupation forces.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN seized the opportunity of a European Community delegation's visit to Jordan to draw world's attention to the dangers inherent in the failure of the Middle East peace process to achieve positive results, said Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily. The talks held in Amman represented a positive step on the part of Jordan and the European nations because the two sides exchanged views about the situation on the one hand and the Europeans have had a first hand examination of the situation in the region on the other, said the paper. The outcome was satisfactory for both sides as the Europeans have started to fully understand the Jordanian pioneering role in the peace process, said the daily. The Jordanian economic position showed real understanding of the Kingdom as a result of the Gulf war, the paper added. The paper said that the European delegation's visit was successful and beneficial to the two sides. But, it said, the European nations are called on now to exert their own serious efforts to help Jordan and the rest of the countries of the region to enjoy a lasting and just peace.

Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, commented on Washington's recent statements which included threats to Libya and Iran. The writer said that the Arab masses were optimistic when Bill Clinton became president of the United States hoping that the man will direct his attention towards domestic affairs and help bring about peace to the Middle East and other parts of the world. But it seems that the Americans are not satisfied with the domestic affairs and the consequences of the past wars they triggered in other parts of the world, said the writer. He said that the Clinton administration showed its total bias towards Israel, condoning its atrocities and preventing any sanctions being imposed on it for disregarding U.N. Security Council resolutions. The recent statements against Iran and Libya should prompt the various states of the region to unify their stand and work towards safeguarding their own interests in the light of the looming danger and Washington's desire to wage more conflicts and wars, said the writer. He said that Libya, for instance, can reply to the American threats by providing Sudan with its needs of oil, and Iran can end its hostile stand towards Iraq and renounce its policy of imposing hegemony over the Gulf. Solidarity among these countries of the region, he said, remains the main effective tool to confront the United States and its plots.

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE MAIN events of the past week: Israel's closure of the occupied Arab territories in the wake of the upsurge of resistance activity and the visit to the region by a delegation from the European Community (EC) were the main topics in the daily press this week.

Al Dustour daily reiterated an Arab demand for the United Nations to provide protection to the Palestinian population in the face of Israel's repression. The paper said that by clamping curfews and blockades on the occupied territories, the Israelis are trying to starve a population of two million living under constant terror in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

These atrocities, which constitute flagrant violations of international rules, are condoned by major powers and it is up to the world community as a whole now to give the Palestinians the protection they deserve for their survival and for their freedom, the paper said.

Under the title "Time is not in Israel's favour" Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the escalation of Israeli crimes against the Arab population and subjecting the Palestinians to new atrocities and crimes can by no means save Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his government. Mr. Rabin's measures can by no means stifle the spirit of resistance. The U.S.-Israeli alliance's offers to the Palestinians to resume the peace talks without solving the expellees problem will not succeed, said the paper.

Al Ra'i said that the upsurge of resistance against Israeli occupation was driving Mr. Rabin mad. Mr. Rabin faces two options: resign and seek mental treatment at one of the lunatic asylums or continue to rule with the so-called iron fist and be dealt ignominious defeat at the hands of the heroic intifada, said the paper. The closure of the Arab areas under Israeli rule, said the paper, is a declaration of defeat for the Israeli occupation and all its leaders.

Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the Palestinian resistance was driving the Israelis crazy. He said that with the new order from their government to fire on Palestinians suspected of car-

rying weapons, the Israelis could be shooting people holding bags of potatoes or bread or old men leaning on walking sticks. The Israelis, who are holding on to the occupied Arab land, are indeed filled with fear of the mere sight of the Arab walking down the streets and are always on the alert fearing for their lives, the writer said. The closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is perhaps a momentary measure on the part of Rabin's government to give them time to contemplate the next step in dealing with the Palestinians, he added. But, he said, the order to shoot will by all means further inflame the Palestinian intifada and cause further bloodshed.

"The closure of the (West Bank and Gaza) is a declaration of defeat for the Israeli occupation and its leaders" Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The Land Day anniversary observed by the Arab people under Israeli rule is no more an anniversary of sadness but rather an outlook towards the future, said a columnist in Al Ra'i. The anniversary has been contributing to the dissipation of the Israeli dream of building the "Greater Israel" because it has been an occasion for an escalation of resistance, said Ahmad Al Mislleh.

Salah Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, believes that Israel will not give up one inch of Arab territory unless forced to do so. The writer said that the escalation of resistance means transforming the land of Palestine into hell for the occupation forces. He said Arabs seeking to regain their usurped rights have no alternative but to struggle against the occupation.

Referring to the EC delegation's visit to the Arab World, Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the delegation members heard Jordan's views, which reiterated the need for the European nations to extend a hand in the peace process. His Majesty King Hussein stressed Jordan's desire for peace, noting the country's leading role in the peace process, which, said the paper, should bring about a durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Echoing similar views, Al Dustour daily said that the

time has come for the world community in general and the European Community in particular to step in and end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The EC delegation should heed the King's warnings to the world in the event the Middle East crisis remains unsettled, said the paper.

Referring to the Damascus meeting, of foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that the meeting ended in good results. The ministers' decision to postpone taking action with regard to the resumption of peace talks until inter-Arab consultations have been completed, said the writer, was a very wise decision. The decision paved the ground for the Arab parties to seek further coordination and offered the

community through slanderous statements against persons as is being done in our country, said Samir Habashneh. "Seldom a week passes without hearing a sermon full of attacks against individuals or groups, something which is considered alien to our faith," said the writer.

Mr. Habashneh also discussed parties and political activities saying that although political parties have now become licensed, the official information service in the country continues to ignore them. He said the information services should contribute to enhancing the democratic process.

Referring to Jordanian women, the writer said despite their continued efforts to promote their social and political stand, there is little chance for any woman to be elected in Parliament this year. The writer demanded that a special quota for women be introduced to ensure their representation in the next Lower House of Parliament.

Discussing the performance of the outgoing Parliament, Mona Shugair, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the last ordinary session of the House ended without the emergence of a real opposition force in Parliament and that the Lower House has totally failed in living up to the promises it had made to the electorate, namely to deal with poverty, unemployment and the rising cost of living among other important issues.

Discussion of numerous laws can by no means be regarded as an accomplishment by the House, and the desire displayed by many deputies to be nominated as ministers in the government has backfired on the House, the writer said. She said that the Jordanian public has repeatedly displayed its dissatisfaction with the long speeches of deputies which, she said, did not contribute to the House's success.

A columnist in Al Dustour urged the Ministry of Labour to seize the opportunity of the Arab labour ministers conference in Amman on Monday to demand the rights of the returning expatriates who had sustained losses for being forced out of Kuwait and the Gulf area in the past three years.

Abdullah Qaq said that the expatriates look towards the coming conference to serve them justice and help them get their compensations and their life-time savings.

Looming uncertainties

Moscow's domestic turmoil
fateful for U.S.-Russian ties

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — As President Bill Clinton heads into his first summit with a Russian leader, he faces the possibility of increasing difficulties with Moscow on foreign policy challenges and an indefinite delay in two key arms treaties.

Unlike in past summits, neither subject is expected to dominate the meeting set for April 3-4 in Vancouver, Canada, with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The summit has a more narrow focus — to boost Mr. Yeltsin as a reformer committed to leading Russia from totalitarianism and a command economy to democracy and free markets.

But cooperation in the international arena and the fate of the two treaties that would slash strategic nuclear stockpiles remain serious issues in the U.S.-Russia relationship. They will have to be addressed in depth, if not at the summit then at some other point, by the two sides.

Cooperation with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and then Mr. Yeltsin as the cold war ended was a major factor in U.S. efforts to begin Arab-Israeli peace talks and build the Gulf war coalition against Iraq, among other initiatives.

Now that the political brawl between Mr. Yeltsin and Russia's conservative legislature has passed in deadlock, U.S. analysts are mulling how it will affect American interests.

For now, Mr. Yeltsin remains president and will get the April 25 referendum he demanded. But the Congress of People's Deputies attached conditions that may not resolve the struggle over who rules Russia.

In the short term, analysts do not expect Mr. Yeltsin to have much energy to devote to foreign policy matters as he wages his domestic battle to remain in power.

Martha Brill Olcott, an expert on Russian affairs, told Reuters: "I think Yeltsin's ability to move on foreign policy is going to be circumscribed. He has to define for himself the widest possible mandate between now and whatever election is held on April 25... He has to have wide appeal to the electorate."

Mr. Yeltsin's nationalist enemies in parliament, strengthened in recent months, have frequently attacked him for being too pro-Western and too ready to strike a deal with Washington.

That criticism is certain to con-

tinue although some analysts doubt that rank-and-file Russians, concerned about their falling standard of living, care about such matters.

These analysts argue that foreign policy is just another tool nationalist politicians have used against Mr. Yeltsin.

But there is no question it has had an impact.

For more than a year, in its United Nations' policy moves on Bosnia's civil war, Washington has accommodated Russian concerns about Serbs who are largely blamed for the conflict.

Russia traditionally has been the Serbs' defender and that emotional link has been exploited by Mr. Yeltsin's adversaries.

Just last week, Washington agreed to postpone a vote on enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia until Mr. Yeltsin weathered his political firestorm at home. Russia, however, remains cool to enforcement and also opposes other U.S.-backed initiatives.

Dr. Olcott, a professor at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, said Russia has yet to define its post-cold war security interests and warns it is not clear how Moscow may act in the future towards China, Iran or arms sales to these and other states.

Another major area of concern comes in the form of the two strategic arms reduction treaties, Start-1 and Start-2, which were signed in 1991 and 1993 respectively, and together would make radical cuts in the deadliest atomic arms.

Start-1 is being blocked by Ukraine, which has delayed ratification far beyond the timeline promised and now cites recent instability in Russia as more reason for footdragging.

Start-2 cannot come into force until Start-1 is implemented. Nationalists say this treaty renders Russia's superpower status and some are determined to fight it.

Under the circumstances, it is unclear when Mr. Yeltsin might be in a position to push this pact through the legislature.

Despite the uncertainties, some are optimistic. Analyst Leon Aron said he expects most U.S.-Russia cooperation to continue apace because Mr. Yeltsin appreciates what a risk it was for Mr. Clinton to back him at a critical time.

Mr. Aron also argues that because Russia's legislature proved it was bent on Mr. Yeltsin's political demise rather than compromise, Mr. Yeltsin will feel under little pressure to mollify it on foreign policy or other issues.



ARAB BANK PLC

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Shareholders,

1992 witnessed significant economic and political events. I prefer to start my message to you this time, by talking about the future of Arab Bank. Change will be the driving force in our future life, and to succeed we have to read the future intuitively. We also need to be able to adapt and accommodate the expected changes.

The changes that we will witness in the few remaining years of the 20th century will probably affect all the dimensions of our life. These changes will either be the outcome of developments we have experienced in the recent past or the result of events we are presently observing. We look forward with hope and confidence to the changes that the future will bring.

The collapse of communism has proved to be a very important agent of change. For the banking industry it has opened wider horizons and these new opportunities will not be limited only to the size of financial markets. On the contrary, the development of a worldwide political system based on liberal democracy should lead to material changes in the structure of the banking industry. The magnitude of these changes will increase with the new philosophy that is likely to prevail in the future. We stand at the edge of a new and very important epoch, a time of change when the human world leaps forward, transcending its previous stage and assuming new form. The remedy of old concepts and bonds that previously linked our world together is now collapsing. A new philosophy is emerging and new needs are arising to meet this change. These needs will be reflected in the creation of new products and services parallel to important and different structures from those existing today.

Regional integration, particularly with the European Community, will have a significant impact on financial markets in the future. These changes will lead to a more pronounced integration of the financial markets of the European Community, the United States and Japan. The Arab Bank Group, with its wide geographical presence, is well positioned to take advantage of these changes. The Arab Bank Group is not only a member of the European Community, but also a member of the Arab League. This dual membership gives us a unique position to serve our customers in both the Arab world and the European Community. We are currently working on a new strategy to expand our services in these regions. We are also working on a new strategy to expand our services in the United States and Japan. We are confident that these changes will lead to a more integrated financial market and a more competitive banking industry.

With the continuous progress in the field of science and technology, we expect that the Arab Bank Group will continue to expand its services and reach new heights. We are currently working on a new strategy to expand our services in the field of science and technology. We are also working on a new strategy to expand our services in the field of finance and economics. We are confident that these changes will lead to a more integrated financial market and a more competitive banking industry.

Throughout history, science and technology have advanced at a rapid pace. As they have done during the last twenty-five years, progress has been overwhelming, touching all aspects of human life. Further advancement is certainly in store for the future. The scientific and technological revolution will not be limited to the physical sciences. It will also affect the social and economic sciences. We are currently working on a new strategy to expand our services in the field of science and technology. We are also working on a new strategy to expand our services in the field of finance and economics. We are confident that these changes will lead to a more integrated financial market and a more competitive banking industry.

A proper moral and social philosophy is also needed to cope with the speed of technical progress. We are currently working on a new strategy to expand our services in the field of science and technology. We are also working on a new strategy to expand our services in the field of finance and economics. We are confident that these changes will lead to a more integrated financial market and a more competitive banking industry.

The banking industry has benefited from modern technology, especially in the field of communications and information processing. Only by utilizing modern technology is it possible to process instantaneously a growing number of financial transactions wherever they arise. All relevant information is transmitted to the decision maker in a timely fashion and in the proper form to be processed. Immediate access to geographically distant markets without the need for a physical presence has become a normal occurrence. Indeed, modern technology has transformed all regional and scattered activities into an integrated and unified whole. Financial institution strategies have had to be altered to cope with and benefit from this enormous increase in efficiency. Size and volume have had to give way to effectiveness, quality and profitability.

Arab Bank stands at the gate of the future with confidence and hope. It remains steadfastly faithful to its mission, which is based on the



continuous and positive contribution to the development of the economy of the Arab world and the societies where it operates. This mission is definitive and will never change. To fulfil this task successfully, we need to understand the dynamics of the future and to deal with them effectively, relying on our own resources. All of our future activities should be inspired by a vision guided by the needs of our customers and the will to excel in serving them. The Bank's future development will be based on three pillars: an elite and efficient staff, advanced technology, and a sufficient capital base.

The future changes require a management that will be increasingly able to make timely adjustments in both capabilities and behaviour. Human behaviour is the most resistant to change. The staff members of Arab Bank are well motivated, loyal and devoted, nevertheless, in order to cope with the fast pace of change they need advanced training on a continuous basis to meet new demands. The Bank is also prepared to strengthen its existing pool of talent by the addition of new, highly qualified skills capable of prompt responses and actions.

Technical advancement is the most dynamic agent of change in the banking industry. Arab Bank is one of the leading institutions utilizing modern technology in its operations. For the future, new concepts are being formulated in the field of data processing, communications, and customer service. Arab Bank will continue employing its resources to acquire the appropriate and advanced technology.

We will also continue to progress in boosting our capital base. A solid capital base is needed, not only to meet legal requirements, but also because it touches upon the core of the Bank's operations. The net worth of a financial institution provides the power that enables it to face risks and enhance its flexibility in adjusting to change. It is also a must for international operations. With the new legal requirements, the size of the Bank and its volume of activities become totally dependent on the size of its capital.

In 1992, I am pleased to report that the Bank had a good year in almost all of its activities. The financial statements show that net income for the year reached JD 55.1 million, representing an increase of JD 1.5 million and 2.8% over 1991. Total revenue grew to JD 195.0 million, or 5.2%. The structure of revenue was slightly altered in favour of commissions as a result of our continued work to enhance revenue from financial services. Net income to the Group reached US\$ 100 million.

The value of the assets reached JD 7,123.3 million. The sustained growth in assets indicates the position of the Bank in the international financial market. The assets of the Bank are diversified and include a wide range of financial instruments. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by geographical region. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument.

The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument.

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In 1992 the Central Bank of Jordan adopted the recommendations of the Cooke Committee on capital adequacy. Once again, Arab Bank has been proven right. Arab Bank always has more than sufficient capital base, but a significant number of international banks suffer from an inability to meet the required ratio. According to the Cooke Committee measurement procedures, the capital adequacy ratio was 14.96% of Arab Bank and 12.25% of Arab Bank Group on 31 December 1992. The required ratio is 10%. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument.

The shareholders of UBAE Arab Bank SA decided to liquidate the Bank amicably. Arab Bank owns 37.45% of its shares. The liquidation was in line with worldwide trends to end the operations of international consortiums. UBAE Arab Bank SA was among the last of these in operation. At the same time, we established Arab Bank AG, a fully owned subsidiary in Frankfurt, Germany. This new addition to our group of subsidiaries is a significant step in our expansion into the European market. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument. The assets of the Bank are also diversified by the type of financial instrument.

As 1992, we also obtained a licence from the Bank of Spain for operating a branch in Madrid. All official and legal requirements were satisfied. We hope that this branch will start its operations at the beginning of the third quarter of 1993 after furnishing the premises and staffing has been completed. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your unfailing support and our customers for their valuable confidence in us. I also thank the Bank staff for their continuing dedication and loyalty.

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All THE DOORS ARE OPEN

Undoubtedly, Arab Bank has hidden powers that distinguish it from other regional banks and probably also from some international banks. These hidden powers came into sight in 1992 when multinational financial institutions in general, and those incorporated outside the OECD countries, in particular, were subjected to an unprecedented number of new regulations aimed at tightening the supervision of central banks and eliminating any possible gaps in their control.



In June, the Basic Committee of the Group of Ten adjusted the guidelines of the Concordat recommendations. The principles of the Concordat have been reformulated to strengthen minimum standards which the Group of Ten supervisory authorities expected each other to observe in their respective countries. These include home country consolidated supervision by a competent supervisor; the prior consent of both the host and home country supervising authority on any creation of cross-border banking establishment; the right to gather information by the supervisory authority from the cross-border banking establishment of the bank, or those banking groups for which they are the home country supervisor; and the authority to impose restrictive measures necessary to satisfy the supervisory authority's prudential concerns, including the prohibition of the creation of banking establishments.

Furthermore, all multinational banks should have a transparent corporate structure to facilitate effective supervision. Failure to maintain such transparency should be a sufficient ground in itself for revoking authorization.

On another front, the rules of the BIS Committee on International Convergence of Capital Measurements and Capital Standards came into full effect on 31 December 1992. All commercial banks operating within the Group of Ten should satisfy the 8% minimum standard of capital asset risk-weighted ratio. In 1992, the Central Bank of Jordan adopted the BIS rules and all Jordanian banks became subject to the capital adequacy requirement.

On 1 January 1993, the European Community Second Banking Directive was fully implemented. It aims to reduce barriers to trade and to facilitate the freedom of establishment; the freedom to provide services; and the free movement of capital within the Community. It involves both mutual recognition of the authorization granted by the members' states' supervisory authorities and the establishment of common standards. It provides for the supervisory authority in the home state to become responsible for the Community-wide authorization of its credit institutions and their subsidiaries.

In the United States, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act (FDICIA) became effective in December 1992. It established a new system of risk-based premium insurance that requires weaker banks to pay more into the FDIC Fund than their strongly capitalized counterparts. The risk-based premium is justified because weaker banks are more likely to need the Fund's assets in the future. The introduction of the Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 107 "Disclosure About Fair Value of Financial Instruments" was another rule imposed on the banking industry in the United States.

SFAS 107 is an actual translation of the unrelenting Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) pressures to force banks and "thrifts" to record current values in their financial statements.

Under this rigid and more restrictive banking environment the supervisory authorities in the Group of Ten and in other OECD countries re-examined foreign banks' subsidiaries and branches operating within their respective jurisdiction. Several banks were requested to rectify their structure in order to adhere to the newly introduced rules. More seriously, the licences of some of these banks were actually revoked. At the same time, and under the same conditions, the doors were opening to Arab Bank Group. It was granted a new unrestricted licence to operate in the EC via its new fully-owned subsidiary in Frankfurt. Another licence was obtained for a branch in Madrid. There are plans to convert the merchant banking subsidiary, Arab Australia Ltd., into a full-fledged commercial bank. In addition to this, several branches were established by the Bank in the Arab countries.

Time after time the Arab Bank Group's entities came out on top with high marks from the supervisory authorities in those countries where the Group operates. The Arab Bank management has endeavoured over the years to build a sound financial position and reliable structure. It has earned its distinction by hard work and sensible policies, which include prudent management of funds; preference for sound financial position rather than aiming for short-term profitability; and diligent care of customers' trust and provision of excellent customer services. A natural result of these policies was a deep-seated confidence in the Bank by its customers and shareholders, as well as by its regulatory authorities. This confidence is the cornerstone of the Group's hidden powers.

Khalid Shoman
Deputy Chairman,
Board of Directors



ARAB BANK PLC

Balance Sheet as of 31st December 1992 and 1991

	1992 J.D. ('000)	1991 J.D. ('000)
Assets		
Cash in hand and at banks	3,420,372	3,483,026
Securities and investments	568,935	566,225
Loans and advances	2,596,201	2,690,759
Customers liability on acceptances	111,076	88,636
Premises and equipment	42,359	37,700
Accrued interest receivable	49,512	55,273
Other assets	39,522	34,088
Total Assets	7,127,377	6,924,507
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	2,225,695	1,829,823
Total	9,353,072	8,754,330

	1992 J.D. ('000)	1991 J.D. ('000)
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Deposits and other accounts	5,581,870	6,443,005
Acceptances	111,076	88,636
Accrued interest payable	54,435	35,611
Dividends and remittances	12,755	11,055
Capital	44,000	44,000
Statutory reserve	28,000	28,950
Voluntary reserve	82,000	51,400
General reserve	222,600	221,950
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	7,127,377	6,924,507
Guarantees and letters of credit	2,225,695	1,829,823
Total	9,353,072	8,754,330

Khalid A.H. Shoman
Deputy Chairman

Abdullatif A.H. Shoman
Chairman

Profit and Loss Statement for the years ended 31st December 1992 and 1991

	1992 J.D. ('000)	1991 J.D. ('000)
Revenue		
Interest revenue	426,341	500,441
Less: Interest expense	296,121	378,283
Net interest revenue	130,220	122,158
Non-interest revenue		
Commissions	35,756	31,158
Foreign exchange trading	9,704	11,924
Other revenue	19,263	21,468
Total non-interest revenue	64,723	64,550
Total Revenue	194,943	186,708
Expenses		
Salaries and staff benefits	50,868	49,318
Depreciation of premises and equipment	4,863	4,673
Other expenses and provisions	68,229	63,229
Total Expenses	123,960	117,220
Net income before income taxes	70,983	69,488
Income taxes	15,925	14,612
Net income	55,058	54,876
Appropriations		
To statutory reserve	7,150	6,850
To voluntary reserve	8,600	10,700
To general reserve	25,050	24,950
Prize cash	11,200	11,000
Directors' remunerations	55	65
Total Appropriations	55,055	53,565

Statement of Sources and Applications of Funds for the years ended 31st December 1992 and 1991

	1992 J.D. ('000)	1991 J.D. ('000)
Funds Provided		
Net income	55,058	54,876
Depreciation of premises and equipment	4,863	4,673
Total funds provided from operations	59,921	59,549
Increase in deposits and other accounts	1,261,220	348,515
Decrease in cash in hand and at banks	(27,158)	(11,158)
Loans and advances	52,356	34,625
Other assets	28,207	34,625
Securities and investments	15,789	15,789
Total Funds Provided	1,328,365	1,025,484
Funds Applied		
Dividends and remittances paid	12,755	11,055
Increase in cash in hand and at banks	392,411	392,411
Securities and investments	202,710	202,710
Loans and advances	118,231	118,231
Premises and equipment	57,922	57,922
Decrease in reserves	(2,000)	(2,000)
Total Funds Applied	1,328,365	1,025,484

Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Arab Bank

We have examined the balance sheet of Arab Bank (a Jordanian public shareholding limited company) as of December 31, 1992 and 1991, and the related statement of income and statement of sources and applications of funds for the years ended December 31, 1992 and 1991. We conducted our audit in accordance with international auditing guidelines and included such tests of the accounting records and of the system of internal control and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

The Bank maintains proper accounting records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith. Furthermore, the financial data presented by the Board of Directors are in agreement with those records.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arab Bank as of December 31, 1992 and 1991, and the results of its operations and its sources and applications of funds for the years then ended, in accordance with international accounting standards, and we recommend that the General Assembly approve these financial statements.

Sabbah C.
Amman, Jordan January 28, 1993



ARAB BANK GROUP

Abstracts from the 1992 Directors' Report , Important figures and activities

In accordance with our mission , as outlined by the founder of the bank , the late Abdelhameed Shoman , to serve the Arab world and the societies where we operate, we continued our endeavours to provide our customers with outstanding services . We worked hard to meet their changing needs and looked after their interests with care and prudence .

The financial statements show that the Group achieved good results and performed all the tasks that were previously established for it by the management .

Net Income

Net income grew at the rate of 6.9% , and reached US\$ 106.4 million compared to US\$ 99.5 million in 1991. This positive performance is attributable to the stable earning power of all entities in the Group. Income from associated companies was also better than in 1991 .

Financial position

As a result of the decline of the Jordanian dinar (by 2.3%) and the Swiss franc (by 8.3%) against the US dollar , the structure of the Group balance sheet was slightly altered in 1992 . A 2.2% decrease in customer deposits , 1.5% decrease in total assets and 0.5%

decrease in the liquidity ratio were the main characteristics of the change in the financial position of 1992 .

Shareholders' Equity

Arab Bank Group's shareholders' equity reached US\$ 993.0 million , representing an improvement of US\$ 40.1 million and 4.2% over the 1991 figures . It amounted to 6.9% of total assets . The capital adequacy ratio for the Group, measured according to the Basle Committee rules was 12.5%. Moreover , shareholders' equity at the end of 1992 was 23.5% of the loan portfolio .

Geographical Distribution

The group's activities in Europe continued to lead other areas with total assets of 50.4%, deposits 50.8% , revenue 43.0% and loan portfolio 32.1% . Arab Bank operations in Jordan showed a solid performance in 1992 . The Jordanian figures improved to 16.4% in total assets , 15.3% in loan portfolio , 18.6% in deposits , and 20.9% in revenue . The Far East and Australia operations continued to progress , achieving 6.0% in total assets, 12.1% in loan portfolio , 2.3% in deposits , and 6.4% in revenue . The operations in North America were consolidated at lower levels in 1992 .

ARAB BANK GROUP

Balance Sheet as of 31st December 1992 and 1991

	1992 US\$('000)	1991 US\$('000)
Assets		
Cash in hand and at banks	8,041,862	8,672,798
Securities and investments	1,364,267	941,558
Loans and advances	4,227,449	4,283,288
Customers' liability on acceptances	160,727	131,270
Investments in associated companies	335,744	286,624
Premises and equipment	77,045	76,904
Accrued interest receivable	72,601	96,924
Other assets	94,541	106,321
Total Assets	14,374,236	14,595,687
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	3,498,589	2,950,126
Total	17,872,825	17,545,813

	1992 US\$('000)	1991 US\$('000)
Liabilities		
Deposits and other accounts	13,148,269	13,439,319
Acceptances	160,727	131,270
Accrued interest payable	49,859	52,869
Other liabilities	22,430	19,305
Total Liabilities	13,381,285	13,642,763
Shareholders' Equity		
Capital	139,246	139,246
Statutory reserve	99,558	88,740
Voluntary reserve	127,571	115,126
General reserve	635,414	591,222
Reserves with associated companies	202,882	185,455
Retained earnings	2,778	3,718
Total	1,207,449	1,123,507
Translation adjustments	(214,498)	(170,583)
Total Shareholders' Equity	992,951	952,924
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	14,374,236	14,595,687
Guarantees and letters of credit	3,498,589	2,950,126
Total	17,872,825	17,545,813

ARAB BANK

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Arab Australia Ltd.
Sydney
Wholly owned subsidiary
Arab Bank (Austria) AG
Vienna
Wholly owned subsidiary
Arab Bank AG
Frankfurt
Wholly owned subsidiary
Finance , Accountancy , Mohassaba S.A.
Geneva
Wholly owned subsidiary

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Percentage of ownership	%
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Arab Bank Maroc	50.00
Oman Arab Bank S.A.O.	49.00
Arab National Bank , Saudi Arabia	40.00
Nigeria-Arab Bank Ltd.	40.00



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GUARANTY
23091

PLO offers 'mechanism' to restart Mideast talks

By Saleiman Al Khalidi
 Reuter

AMMAN — Palestinians have proposed to the United States what they feel is an acceptable mechanism to bring home Palestinians expelled by Israel and restart peace talks, a top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Wednesday.

Nabil Shaath, the PLO's top Middle East peace strategist, said the proposal linked a promise by Israel to halt future expulsions with a speedier repatriation of the Palestinians expelled by Israel in December.

"We are not yet satisfied with answers produced by our American interlocutors," he added. "But day to day, negotiations are continuing. We are at a point that needs a little push to produce results."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak raised the Palestinian proposal in his April 6 talks in Washington with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, he said.

"It (the plan) is a mechanism to simultaneously tie a pledge by Israel not to resort to deportations with an agreed-upon accelerated schedule for the return of the deportees," Dr. Shaath, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters.

The 17-month-old peace talks were suspended after Israel expelled to South Lebanon 415 Palestinians it accused of links to militant Muslim groups that attacked Israeli soldiers.

Israel has agreed to take back some of the expelled, but has so

far rejected any demand that it renounce expulsions in order to restart the peace talks.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinian proposal would "entail the Palestinians and Israelis handing separate envelopes (written statements) to the United States, each saying he would fulfill his part of the deal if the other does."

"The U.S. sponsor (of peace talks) would be a witness to the fulfillment of the agreed time framework," he added.

"These are the two practical issues — the wording of a pledge by Israel not to resort to deport again and a mechanism to produce an accelerated return of the deportees," he said.

"It provides a way out of the practical dilemma of the deportee problem and has a lot of precedents in diplomatic history."

Israel has agreed to attend what could be the ninth round of peace talks in Washington on April 20. But Arabs and the Palestinians want firmer assurances on the expulsions.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinians were examining a number of "drafts of pledges" by Israel not to use expulsions in the future — a key Arab demand to restart the talks.

"A variety of texts are being floated now but none of them are yet satisfactory to us," he said.

Dr. Shaath said that the PLO's proposal sought to accommodate an oath taken by the Israelis only to return together.

"Under the accelerated return plan, even if the deportees do not want to go back in installments, they can all wait a short period before the installments are due and return together."

Pakistan vows to expel thousands of fighters

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has threatened to expel thousands of Arabs once bankrolled by Washington in its proxy war against Soviet occupation forces in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The Arabs had come to Pakistan, mostly from Egypt, in the 1980s to join the Afghan resistance, and stayed on after an Islamic government was installed in Kabul last year to fight for a more strictly fundamentalist state.

But their continued presence has made Pakistan skittish because of the militants' links to the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York and other lawless acts.

On Thursday, the government deplored the presence of Arab mercenaries and warned that their days in Pakistan may be numbered — though its ability to follow through on the threat was doubtful.

"They aren't just our creation," Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain said. "They are also their (Washington's) creation during Afghan war."

For nine years, until Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, Pakistan was Washington's bulwark against the

spread of communism in southern Asia.

The United States spent billions of dollars on weapons sent to Pakistan for distribution to the Afghan resistance, headquartered in the dusty frontier city of Peshawar.

Initially, Pakistan and the United States welcomed the arrival of the extremists, whose numbers were not documented. But now that the war is over, they see them as a destabilising factor because of the very fundamentalism that brought them to Pakistan in the first place.

Several figures in the World Trade Centre bombing in February turned out to be Arab militants who had trained in Afghanistan or were linked to the mercenaries.

Mahmud Abdul Halima, the former New York city taxi driver from Egypt accused of being the bombing mastermind, fought in Afghanistan.

News reports claimed that two sons of Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who is said to be linked to several of the bombing suspects, fought in Afghanistan and that the blind cleric himself was in Peshawar in 1990.

Can a U.N. bureaucracy deal with emergencies?

By Sylvie Girard

Following is an article reprinted from *Refugees*, a monthly magazine of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

A United Nations bureaucracy involved in emergency operations may seem like a contradiction in terms, but it has become an increasingly common role for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

In northern Iraq and ex-Yugoslavia, UNHCR staff members have found themselves doing everything from distributing blankets and baby food to organising airlifts and planning and leading road convoys.

This hands-on role has sparked considerable debate within UNHCR as well as in the humanitarian relief community at large.

As one senior staff member puts it: "We at UNHCR are a bureaucratic organisation trying to be as operational..." as possible. Others add that UNHCR must take a more active role — the very nature of humanitarian emergencies demands it. Lives depend on it.

Of all U.N. agencies, UNHCR is probably the most operational. But it has not always been this way.

Created in the aftermath of World War II, UNHCR's governing statute did not foresee direct assistance to refugees. Instead, the office's role was defined as "searching for lasting solutions" to refugee problems, and its operational role was limited to "facilitating the coordination of the efforts of private organisations who deal with the welfare of refugees."

In "classic" refugee situations, the actual work on the ground has been the responsibility of either host governments or non-governmental organisations (NGOs). UNHCR's traditional role has been to fund some or most of the assistance, to supervise the programme, to control the finances and to provide technical advice.

But as refugee situations became ever more complex and dramatic, UNHCR was compelled to become more operational.

Over the years, with political upheavals in Africa, Asia and Central America forcing whole communities into flight, UNHCR has had to adapt to situations in which food, water and shelter had to be provided quickly to people in remote areas. Often, these refugees were perceived as a security threat by receiving countries, complicating even further UNHCR's work.

The crises which prompted UNHCR to set up its first emergency unit were the influx of Cambodians into Thailand in late 1979, and the boat people exodus from Vietnam. Initially a three-person team, the emergency unit drew up preparedness guidelines for emergencies, including the

Emergency Handbook, and created training programmes for staff.

But UNHCR's experience in Central America in the 1980s was a turning point in its operational capacity. With entire communities fleeing massive human rights abuses and settling precariously in remote and hostile border areas, UNHCR offices in the region had to be bold and imaginative in carrying out their work. Protection, the cornerstone of that work, became actual physical protection as UNHCR field officers established a 24-hour presence in the camps, often under very trying circumstances.

For the first time, UNHCR established an office in the country of origin to better monitor the fate of those who chose voluntary repatriation. Returnees were accompanied by UNHCR staff as they made their way home.

In both Central America and Southeast Asia, the keys to success were flexibility and adaptability to changing situations. Thanks to a flexible mandate, UNHCR was able to become more operational as the situation warranted.

The end of the cold war brought calls from the international community for UNHCR to become even more operational. Donor states became more worried about North-South problems, such as massive migrations, than about East-West tensions. "As governments substitute humanitarian intervention for political action, we're being called upon to be more effective than we've ever been before," says Eric Morris, Deputy Director for the Division of Programmes, Support, Budget and Finance.

In 1989, the member states of UNHCR's Executive Committee urged the organisation to step up its early warning activities, and improve emergency staffing and stockpiling procedures. A year later, the Executive Committee recognised that the high commissioner needed more flexibility to ensure funding in emergencies. In February 1991, it approved an increase of the Emergency Fund from \$10 million to \$20 million. It also authorised, within that new ceiling up to \$6 million for any one emergency.

Although UNHCR had been confronted with major refugee emergencies since the late 1970s, the Kurdish crisis in the spring of 1991 was unprecedented both in scope and in international interest. According to many observers within and outside the organisation, UNHCR staff arrived on the scene of the emergency too slowly, in insufficient numbers, and with inadequate experience.

UNHCR's own review of the operation noted: "In the Gulf, UNHCR's capacity to act quickly and decisively was limited by the absence of structures, systems and procedures designed to meet the specific needs of an

emergency."

Previous proposals to set up emergency procedures had often gone unimplemented. But the magnitude of the Kurdish emergency prompted newly appointed High Commissioner Sadako Ogata to forcefully push for the implementation of concrete proposals for the quick mobilisation of funds, of personnel, and for the prepositioning of relief items. In short, she called for the mobilisation of the entire organisation for effective emergency response.

The old emergency unit was revamped. The new unit, renamed the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section, became operational in February 1992. Its role is to develop resources and tools to enhance the capacity of the Regional Bureaux to respond to emergencies.

While the new Emergency Section represents a major step forward, it is only one element of the overall response. Its range of action is squeezed between the political decision-making process (the first phase of emergency response) and the longer-term emergency operation itself (the third phase). The Emergency Section is not meant to have control over the first or the third phase.

The section's most important innovation was the placement of specific staff and resources on standby at all times. As Janet Lim, chief of the new section, put it: "Before, we had no bodies on standby to send to the field in an emergency. Now we do."

These "bodies" include five newly appointed Emergency Preparedness and Response Officers (EPROs) at the senior level who act as a "fire brigade." Each is responsible for a particular geographical area. In the event of an emergency, they are deployed immediately to the field as leaders for the Emergency Response Teams. They are responsible for setting up the structure and systems to ensure the smooth running of the emergency operation.

Some 20 staff members make up the teams. Team members, although assigned to posts in various locations, are always on standby for emergency missions. Another 40 staff members are part of an Emergency Roster that can be drawn from when required. Specialists in logistics, nutrition, health, water, sanitation, site planning and other areas are also on call in the initial stages of an emergency.

With UNHCR's human resources overstretched, there is also provision for the secondment of external personnel. One successful innovation has been a standby arrangement with the Norwegian and Danish Refugee Councils, used for the first time in the Gulf crisis. It provides for the rapid deployment of large numbers of experienced technical staff within 72 hours of an emergency.

UNHCR also maintains a com-

puterised roster of over 500 technical consultants who can be called into an emergency when national technical experts in the host country cannot be found.

UNHCR has also entered into an agreement with the Swedish Rescue Services Board (SRB), the civil defence branch of the Swedish army. SRB personnel can be seconded to UNHCR on very short notice for a period of three to four weeks to set up living, transport, office, com-

munications and medical facilities for UNHCR staff, freeing them to deal with the job at hand.

As for stockpiling, UNHCR has established a centrally controlled emergency reserve to provide basic relief supplies to 50,000 beneficiaries at short notice. Supplementing this reserve system are standby agreements with NGOs and inter-governmental organisations which give UNHCR priority access to relief supplies whenever needs exceed

the capacity of the central emergency stockpile. Items chosen for stockpiling are usually those that require a long lead time between the placement of a purchase order and arrival in-country, such as tents, tarpaulins, plastic sheeting, blankets, kitchen sets, water and sanitation equipment, communications equipment, and Rub Hall warehouses. Items with shelf lives of less than a year are excluded.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 6

Drawing of April 2, 1993

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Holder of ticket No. 85997 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 400 each with JD 40 95997 84997 85097 85907 85998 75997 84997 85897 85987 85996
Holder of ticket No. 52738 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 200 each with JD 20 62738 53738 52838 52748 52739 42738 51738 52638 52728 52737
Holder of ticket No. 57258 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each with JD 10 67258 58258 57358 57268 57259 47258 56258 57158 57248 57257
Holder of ticket No. 94306 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each with JD 10 04306 95306 94406 94316 94307 84306 93306 94206 94396 94305
Holder of ticket No. 87616 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 80 each with JD 8 97616 88616 87716 87626 87617 77616 86616 87516 87606 87615
Holder of ticket No. 74255 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 70 each with JD 7 84255 75255 74355 74265 74256 64255 73255 74155 74245 74254

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U.S. accuses 44 states of erecting trade barriers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has accused 44 countries of erecting unfair trade practices that rob American companies of foreign sales.

In a report prepared by the U.S. Trade Office, Japan was singled out as the biggest perpetrator of barriers to competition in the report, followed by the 12-nation European Community (EC).

The report, the eighth annual edition, is the first step in a process that could lead to trade sanctions if negotiations fail to correct alleged infractions.

President Bill Clinton, when he was campaigning for president last year, accused the Bush administration of failing to aggressively challenge countries to remove barriers that keep American companies from making sales.

In a statement with the report, U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor pledged that the new administration would use the information contained in this annual review to dismantle trade barriers that are robbing U.S. companies of sales.

Mr. Kantor said that in addition to hard-nosed negotiations, the administration would also seek to push forward with completion of the Uruguay Round of trade talks as a way to remove barriers.

"We believe that the markets of our trading partners should be comparably open to those in the United States," Mr. Kantor said.

The 275-page report targets a number of foreign trade practices ranging from general import barriers and discriminatory government procurement policies to the use of standard-setting to keep foreign goods out of a country. The report also lists countries it alleges are failing to protect American copyrights and patents.

The administration has until the end of April to select from the list a priority group of nations from intensive negotiations aimed at correcting alleged violations of U.S. copyright and patent protections.

Mr. Kantor's office can also initiate investigations on other alleged infractions although it faces no specific deadline for doing so and because of a lack of resources, past administrations have only targeted selected infractions.

There is generally a nine-month deadline for completing talks in the copyright area with the possibility that failure to resolve the disputes could result in U.S. trade sanctions by raising the tariffs on imports of products from the targeted country.

In practice, however, both countries usually find a way to resolve the trade dispute before tariffs are imposed.

In addition to Japan, other countries accused of having trade barriers were Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech and Slovak republics, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

Along with the 12-nation EC, another trading bloc cited by the report was the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a trading collection of Gulf Arab states.

BIS report shows daily world foreign exchange turnover at \$880 billion

LONDON (R) — Global turnover in the world's foreign exchange markets grew by an estimated 42 per cent to \$880 billion a day in April 1992 from April 1989, a Bank for International Settlements (BIS) report has said.

The foreign exchange market has in the past crushed attempts by central banks to guide currency movements, and even forced governments to rethink monetary and fiscal policy.

But the pace of growth slowed sharply from the previous three-year period, when turnover in the countries surveyed roughly doubled. The BIS-based bank for central bankers said.

Derivative instruments, designed to protect investors from adverse exchange rate movements, expanded fast, while broad-based currency dealings in straightforward currency transactions, the so-called spot market, increased only slowly, it added.

The report compiled surveys conducted in April last year by 26 central banks and monetary authorities and gave a snapshot of foreign exchange markets in that month — a period when no dramatic political, financial or economic events occurred which might have influenced dealing.

Spot trading volume showed the most pronounced slowdown in volume growth, with global turnover rising a scant 15 per cent in the latest three-year period, the report said.

Although turnover in derivatives ballooned, the pace of growth was slower than in the prior similar period.

The fastest growing segment of the market was options, where turnover more than doubled, though these still accounted for only four per cent of reported exchange market activity.

Options allow an investor to buy or sell a currency at some time in the future but he is not obliged to do so.

The U.S. dollar held the pre-eminent position in dealings, playing a role in 83 per cent of all foreign exchange trades, the report said. But its lead declined from 90 per cent in 1989 with yen volume also down at 24 per cent of the total.

The mark has taken up this slack and is now a party to 38 per cent of all trades, putting it a solid second to the dollar.

By currency pair, dollar/mark trades account for more than one-quarter of total turnover, and dollar/yen and dollar/sterling for an additional one-fifth and one-tenth respectively. Trades between currencies in the European Monetary System made up a further seven per cent of net volume.

London built on its status as the premier centre for foreign exchange, pushing its share of business to nearly 30 per cent in April 1992, from 25 per cent in 1989. New York's share grew slightly, while Tokyo's fell by three percentage points.

The combined share of these three major centres rose slightly to nearly 60 per cent, the report said.

The next four most important centres, Singapore, Switzerland, Hong Kong and Germany together accounted for about 25 per cent of the deals. Among the smaller countries, Spain, Greece and the three Scandinavian countries excluding Norway all registered large increases in turnover.

Task force tries to vacuum up Hoover fiasco

LONDON (R) — A management task force is trying to sort out a promotional nightmare at Hoover Europe after three executives were fired when a free-flights scheme backfired.

"Chiefs are sacked as free flights cost Hoover £20 million (\$30 million)," said the Daily Telegraph newspaper in a banner headline. The tabloid Daily Express added: "Hoover axes fiasco bosses."

Maytag Corp., the company's U.S. owners, announced the dismissals and admitted it would face a \$30 million charge to compensate customers who bought Hoover products on the promise of free flights to the United States and Europe.

"These promotions were flawed and we are taking strong steps to rectify the situation," Leonard Hadley, Maytag's chairman and chief executive said.

Up to 200,000 people in Britain and Ireland are estimated to have bought a Hoover product worth at least £100 (\$150) to qualify for two free air tickets to Europe or America worth up to £400 (\$600).

The promotion, from August to October last year, was designed to boost sales but Hoover's marketing team underestimated the impact of the sales gimmick.

"Subject to the terms and conditions of the promotion, Hoover will honour its commitment to its customers," a company spokeswoman in Britain said.

Travel companies working on the promotion could not keep up with demand and press reports said Hoover was negotiating with British Airways to buy up to 20,000 extra tickets to destinations in the United States and Europe.

Customers who entered the promotion had to comply with many complicated conditions attached to the offer, but the prospect of a cheap dream holiday helped applicants overcome most of the red tape.

"It was a great idea that was badly managed," a Hoover spokesman admitted.

Survey suggests U.S. consumers losing faith

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. consumer confidence fell for the third straight month in March as anxiety over layoffs, slow growth and possible tax hikes overshadowed President Bill Clinton's plans for economic expansion, a survey reported Tuesday.

The widely followed assessment by the Conference Board research group suggested a marked shift from the buoyant public mood after the 1992 presidential election. It indicated consumers are likely to reduce spending in the months ahead.

"The household sentiment that we saw late last year had a lot to do with psychological factors... (about having) a new president, a chance for economic growth," said William Sullivan, an economist for Dean Witter, Discover and Co. "But the harsh reality of a sluggish economy apparently is beginning to grind down confidence."

The Conference Board index of consumer confidence declined nearly six points to 62.6, compared with a 68.5 reading in February, 76.7 reading in January and a 78.1 reading in December.

The March reading was the lowest level since July, although significantly higher than a year ago, when the index totalled 56.5.

and from the recession readings of 50 or lower.

The index, calculated on a base of 100, is derived from a survey sent to 5,000 households nationwide, which covers questions ranging from home-buying plans to local job conditions.

It's regarded as an important indicator of household financial and employment security, which plays a direct role in consumer willingness to borrow and spend. Consumer spending, in turn, is responsible for about two-thirds of the nation's overall economic activity.

Fewer respondents in the March survey said they planned to buy a car, a home or household furnishings like appliances in the next six months.

"The prime concern of people continues to be jobs," said Fabian Linden, executive director of the Conference Board's Consumer Research Centre.

About 40 per cent of survey respondents said jobs were "hard to get," compared with nearly six per cent that said they were "plentiful."

Around 35 per cent described business conditions as "bad," three times the number that called conditions "good."

While recent economic data suggests modest economic growth, consumers have been especially discouraged by an extended bout of corporate layoffs throughout the first few months of the year by major companies such as International Business Machines Corp., Boeing Co. and Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Those layoffs and cutbacks show little signs of slowing down. On Monday, for example, Delta Air Lines announced it was laying off 600 pilots, and Hughes Missile Systems Co. said was eliminating about 2,000 engineering and management jobs in California and Arizona.

Economists say worries about a tax hike also are responsible for shaking American faith in the economic recovery.

"Consumer confidence had been sinking ever since he unveiled his 'economic plan,'" said Robert Brusca, chief financial economist for Nikko Securities Co. International. "Higher taxes don't make people feel better about the future."

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close 31/3/93	Tokyo Close 1/4/93
Sterling Pound	1.5141	1.5104
Deutsche Mark	1.6070	1.6070
Swiss Franc	1.4903	1.4946
French Franc	5.4573	5.4785
Japanese Yen	114.78	114.54
European Currency Unit	1.2063	1.2012

USD Per STD
European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.12	3.21	3.46
Sterling Pound	5.58	5.81	5.75	5.75
Deutsche Mark	8.20	7.85	7.48	6.82
Swiss Franc	5.31	5.12	4.75	4.56
French Franc	10.20	9.80	9.00	8.15
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.18	3.21	3.25
European Currency Unit	9.43	9.06	8.56	8.00

Interbank bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JJD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JJD/Gm
Gold	336.85	6.60	Silver	3.87	.090

21 Karat Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6850	0.6870
Sterling Pound	1.0543	1.0595
Deutsche Mark	0.4243	0.4264
Swiss Franc	0.4577	0.4600
French Franc	0.1250	0.1256
Japanese Yen	0.5975	0.6005
Dutch Guilder	0.3715	0.3794
Swedish Krona	0.0862	0.0866
Italian Lira	0.0429	0.0431
Belgian Franc	0.02054	0.02064

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6010	1.6400
Lebanese Lira	0.05615	0.04050
Saudi Riyal	0.1625	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2450	2.2800
Qatari Riyal	0.1858	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.1940	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7540	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1658	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.3075	0.3125
Cypriot Pound	1.4050	1.4250

Per 100

Index	30/3/1993	Close	31/3/1993	Close
All-Share	196.22		196.11	
Banking Sector	135.76		135.37	
Insurance Sector	213.69		213.78	
Industry Sector	279.42		279.57	
Services Sector	265.12		266.16	

December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
\$1.00 costs	1.2592/97	Canadian dollar
	1.5910/20	Deutschmarks
	1.7890/900	Dutch guilders
	1.4753/63	Swiss francs
	32.72/76	Belgian francs
	5.4125/75	French francs
	154.15/99	Italian lire
	113.92/14.02	Japanese yen
	7.6000/1100	Swedish crowns
	6.7800/900	Norwegian crowns
	6.1200/300	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5340/50	
Gold (ounce)	\$339.50/340.00	

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	473,150	132.000	132.500 131.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	756,378	5.000	5.100 5.000
BANK OF JORDAN	79,785	23.250	23.750 22.625
JORDANIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	480,553	3.800	3.900 4.010
THE HOUSING BANK	234,143	3.320	3.400 3.500
JORDAN TRUST BANK	35,495	2.550	2.620 2.430
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	54,818	4.200	4.300 4.100
JORDAN ZILBAH BANK	271,114	4.700	4.800 4.840
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	91,607	4.150	4.250 4.350
HOUSING BANK	184,645	3.200	3.300 3.400
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	27,858	4.400	4.500 4.600
JORDAN TRUST INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	46,843	3.300	3.400 3.500
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	262,692	1.700	1.800 1.720
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	51,772	3.500	3.600 3.700
JORDAN INSURANCE	36,950	3.400	3.500 3.600
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	11,188	2.800	2.900 2.750
JORDAN TRUST INSURANCE	1,203,037	4.070	4.170 4.120
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	7,400	3.800	3.900 3.700
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	5,100	3.350	3.450 3.400
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	175,061	3.200	3.300 3.220
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1,632,404	2.000	2.100 2.220
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	46,812	5.500	5.700 5.720
18015 DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	156,496	1.070	1.120 1.240
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	7,923	6.500	6.900 6.980
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	267,672	5.700	5.900 6.200
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	1,131	2.520	2.680 2.500
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	339	0.810	0.770 0.730
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	981,997	4.870	4.980 4.940
JORDAN CITY REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	72,257	1.600	1.700 1.650
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	23,846	1.800	1.900 1.820
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	3,588	1.140	1.150 1.150
JORDAN TRADING & INVESTMENT	51,772	3.570	3.670 3.620
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-POSTOR	42,948	2.080	2.080 1.980
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONGRESS HOTELS	229,547	2.380	2.370 2.400
JORDAN TOWNSHIP & CIGARETTES	585	79.900	29.250 29.250
ATMOSPHERIC CORP. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	215,136	1.850	1.860 1.870
JORDAN PROSPECT MINES	127,022	4.600	4.600 4.600
THE ARAB POSTER	1,007	31.800	33.500 33.500
JORDAN TECHNOLOGY REFINERY	369,749	10.000	10.000 10.500
JORDAN TANNING	10,000	7.000	7.000 7.450
MOJIB INDUSTRIES	18,913	3.400	3.400 2.750
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	130,343	6.100	6.100 6.070
THE JORDAN MONSTER HILLS	113,370	9.700	9.800 9.500
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	177,148	7.150	7.250 7.000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	142,761	6.400	6.400 6.150
JORDAN DAILY	7,201	2.680	2.580 2.640
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	71,191	3.850	3.900 3.790
JORDAN PAPER & CARBONADO FACTORIES	2,250	4.750	4.750 4.750
THE PUBLIC BUILDING	14,244	3.150	3.150 3.210
ARAB CERAMIC DEVELOPMENTS INDUSTRIES	51,620	23.550	23.700 23.100
SPINNING & WEAVING	106,590	3.260	3.290 3.270
RAPHA INDUSTRIES	19,299	3.600	3.700 2.700
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	39,783	0.770	0.750 0.750
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1,133,984	12.100	12.250 12.100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	706,125	3.490	3.540 3.490
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	1,428,269	14.600	14.750 14.650
GENERAL INVESTMENT	551,218	0.920	0.940 0.940
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	609,888	2.600	2.600 3.050
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	11,379	0.800	0.800 0.800
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	330,915	6.130	6.200 6.070
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	45,834	0.950	1.000 0.950
INTERMEDIATE TECHNO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	466,056	4.300	4.400 4.270
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	13,032	5.650	5.800 5.230
JORDAN ROYALTY CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	35,237	2.660	2.640 2.750
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	228,831	14.600	14.650 14.000
ALABIN INDUSTRIES	11,000	4.300	4.400 4.400
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	84,188	1.300	1.320 1.310
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRIES	202,188	0.670	0.630 0.640
NATIONAL CABLE & TELE MANUFACTURING	469,180	9.000	9.150 9.070
JORDAN SILICO-CHEMICALS	134,274	4.780	4.800 4.590
ARAB CENTER FOR FRUIT & CHEMICALS	484,006	4.400	4.420 4.400
JORDAN JEWELRY CO. FOR AGR. & FOOD PROD.	293,998	1.750	1.740 1.820
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	463,549	5.070	5.080 5.440
GRAND TOTAL	37,442,995		

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The ITALIAN EMBASSY (CULTURAL SECTION) ANNOUNCES

The starting of Italian language classes for foreigners (levels 1,2 and 3) on Saturday, April the 17th, 1993 — 45 hours, 3 times per week from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Terra Sancta College, Jabal Al Lwbedeh.

Information and registration at the Italian Embassy (Cultural Section) Ph. 638185 from Sunday to Thursday 9-12 a.m. up to the 14th of April.

U.N. officials push ahead with Srebrenica evacuation plans

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Trucks laden with food and medicine headed for Srebrenica Friday, and U.N. officials made plans to prevent more deaths when the same trucks evacuate Muslims trapped in the eastern Bosnian town.

Four trucks were loaded and four were empty, said Alemka Lisinski, a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman in Zagreb.

UNHCR officials planned to unload the four trucks in Srebrenica, get refugees on board, then drive just outside the town where the empty trucks would wait, and have half the passengers board those vehicles, she said.

"This way we can achieve both our aims: To get aid to Srebrenica and avoid further tragedy in evacuating people," she said.

Evacuations were suspended Thursday after Muslim refugees were killed in the frenzy to flee, smothered in the crush or fatally injured when they fell out of the packed flatbed trucks.

Two children and four adults died Wednesday, when about 2,000 refugees crammed 14 trucks. More than 2,300 people jammed 19 trucks Monday, and at least three babies died.

Bosnian government officials protested to the United Nations, accusing it of using inhuman methods and helping the Serbs clear eastern Bosnia of Muslim inhabitants.

Srebrenica is the last government-held town in eastern Bosnia.

Friday's plans went ahead despite warnings from Bosnian Serb commanders Thursday that they would refuse more aid to Srebrenica and would allow in only empty trucks to evacuate Mus-

lims.

The Bosnian Serbs' self-declared parliament was meeting Friday in Bileca, southern Bosnia, to decide whether to accept an international peace plan already accepted by their foes, the Muslims and Croats.

Russia's special envoy to Yugoslavia, Vitaly Churkin, was attending the session. His presence appears to be an effort by Russia, a traditional Serb ally, to make clear the heavy costs of rejecting the peace plan.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic Thursday denounced the U.N. Security Council decision Wednesday to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia and suggested it would bolster Bosnian Serb opposition to the peace plan.

The plan foresees a Bosnia-Herzegovina divided into 10 autonomous provinces. But it denies the Serbs the land links to Serbia proper and Serb-held areas of Croatia for which they have fought for a year.

Bosnian Serbs rebelled last spring after Muslims and Croats voted for independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. At least 134,000 people are dead or missing and 2 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

Norway's foreign minister, Thorvald Stoltenberg, resigned his post Friday to replace Cyrus Vance as U.N. peace negotiator for the former Yugoslav states.

Mr. Vance announced Thursday that he was stepping down. Mr. Stoltenberg said the transfer would take place this month. He is a former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, once lived in Yugoslavia and speaks Serbo-Croatian.

At the world court in the

Netherlands, Serbia is expected to respond to accusations from Bosnia's government that Serbs committed genocide against Muslims.

During Thursday's opening session in the Hague, Bosnia asked the U.N. judicial body for emergency protection from Serb forces it said are led and supplied by Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, NATO military authorities met Friday to complete plans for U.S. and allied warplanes to patrol Bosnian airspace and shoot down intruders who violate a U.N. ban on flights.

The alliance's military committee met to discuss details of the force, likely to include up to 100 U.S., French, British and perhaps Dutch fighters, as well as rules of engagement for the mission, which is expected to start within two weeks.

Later Friday, a meeting of ambassadors from the 16 alliance nations was expected to endorse the plans, giving NATO its first military operation beyond its borders since the end of the cold war.

NATO sources said because of concern for the safety of U.N. forces already in Bosnia the fighters would probably be given orders that would allow them to shoot down intruders only after repeated warnings or if they are attacked.

Under the terms of a U.N. resolution passed Wednesday, enforcement will be confined to Bosnian airspace and any attacks against aircraft on the ground or ground installations would require further approval, except in cases of self-defence.

The Serbs — who have violated the five-month-old zone most frequently — have reacted defiantly, forecasting a widening of hosti-

ties rather than peace.

"By adopting the latest resolution, the U.N. has committed a catastrophic mistake," Yugoslavia's Tanjug News Agency quoted Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic as saying Thursday.

U.N. forces in Bosnia are now expected to prepare extra defences in case they are threatened by the Serbs or others.

Britain and France, who have most of the 9,000 U.N. troops in Bosnia delivering aid, are expected to insist the fighters can only shoot down planes violating the zone once clear warnings have been given, or in self-defence.

"NATO will be firm in applying the no-fly zone but we want to avoid being unnecessarily provocative at all costs," said one alliance source who asked not to be identified.

The U.N. resolution passed Wednesday authorised military action for the first time in the former Yugoslavia and is designed to put pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to sign an international peace plan that could end the war.

The no-fly operation will be run from a NATO air headquarters at Vicenza, northeastern Italy, commanded by an Italian Air Force general.

Italian, Greek or Turkish planes could not be used because those countries are deemed to be too close to the conflict.

The U.S. contribution is expected to be F-16 fighters flying from bases in Italy or navy jets based on an aircraft carrier. Britain will send Tornado warplanes, while France has earmarked Mirage 2000 interceptors and the Netherlands has offered F16s.



Bosnian Serb soldiers check a Belgian U.N. convoy at a checkpoint in Zvornik (AFP photo)

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Accord reached in Croatia conflict

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Croatian government and rebel Serb have agreed in principle on a truce agreement that calls for U.N. troops to be deployed in flashpoints along the Adriatic coast, sources close to the talks said. The Croatian army shattered a year-old ceasefire in January by crossing a truce line to gain areas vital to its economic lifeline. In return, Serbs from the Krajina region stormed a U.N. compound to take back their heavy weapons. Under the new agreement, Croatia would pull back its forces within 10 days of the signing while at the same time the Serbs would return their heavy weapons to the U.N. Protection Forces (UNPROFOR). Both U.N. troops and police would then fill the vacuum as well as guard a strategic bridge, airport and dam.

2 key S. Korean generals fired

SEOUL (AP) — President Kim Young-Sam Friday fired two key generals considered loyal to past military-dominated regimes in a move to consolidate civilian control of the military. The move was part of Mr. Kim's bid to bring changes after 32 years of military intervention in politics and push ahead with broad political and economic reforms. As the first civilian president since 1961, Mr. Kim has tried to curb the power of the military and security organisations. The 65-year-old former dissident was persecuted by military-dominated regimes. In a surprise move on March 8, Mr. Kim replaced the head of the powerful Military Intelligence Agency and the Army Chief of Staff. On Friday, Lt. Gen. Ahn Byong-Ho was dismissed as head of the Capital Defence Command and Lt. Gen. Kim Hyong-Sun as commander of the army Special Warfare Command. The two are to be reassigned, but their new posts have not been announced.

Swedish government wins key vote

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish government won a vote in parliament Friday on cutting the value of benefits to the unemployed by an annual 6.2 billion Swedish crowns (\$816 million) starting on July 1. Voting in the 349-seat Riksdag (parliament) on an opposition amendment was 144 in favour, 184 against and no abstentions. Twenty-one members were absent. The result meant the four-party coalition's policy was accepted.

Audit shows up WHO contract 'shortcomings'

GENEVA (R) — Auditors said Friday they had found "shortcomings" in World Health Organisation (WHO) finances, but laid no personal blame on its Japanese chief Hiroshi Nakajima. An external audit conducted by Britain's Sir John Bourn identified a number of problems. It called for greater scrutiny of the U.N. agency's allocation of funds. Mr. Nakajima, 64, was appointed WHO director-general in 1988, but Western donor nations unhappy with his style of management tried to block his reappointment this year. Western nations have already signalled their intention to try to unseat him at the annual World Health Assembly in May.

4 U.S. House select committees strapped

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Four House select committees — Hunger, Narcotics, Aging, and Children, Youth, and Families have closed their doors, victims of a wave of congressional reform. Critics said the panels, which had no legislative powers, amounted to little more than publicity machines for their members. To stay in business the four committees had to be reauthorised at the beginning of each new Congress. In January, a routine vote to reauthorise the narcotics panel for two more years failed by a vote of 327-180. Democratic leaders then decided, as a symbol of congressional budgetary and organisational reform, to let the three other select committees expire by not scheduling a floor vote on their extension. The panels spent about \$3.7 million a year; their closing will save about \$2.7 million for the remainder of the current budget year.

Bruce Lee's son killed by bullet

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — A .44-caliber bullet was removed from the body of actor Brandon Lee, raising questions about whether his death during filming of an action-adventure movie was accidental. "We don't have enough information to make a determination one way or the other," Police Capt. L.P. Thomas said. Lee, son of the late martial arts actor Bruce Lee, died Wednesday about 12 hours after he was shot with a prop gun that was supposed to be loaded with blanks. "There's a lot of rumour and speculation, but there's nothing to suggest it was anything other than an accident," said Jeremy Walker, a spokesman for the production company for the movie, The Crow. The bullet entered Lee's abdomen and lodged against his spine. Dr. Warren W. McMurry said after operating on him, but he didn't remove the bullet during surgery.

Pressure mounts on North Korea to accept IAEA ruling

SEOUL (R) — Pressure was mounting on North Korea Friday to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

South Korea and Australia condemned Pyongyang's refusal to give nuclear inspectors access to suspected nuclear plants. Japan said China must do more to persuade its Communist ally not to withdraw and criticised Peking's actions so far.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans called North Korea's stance "probably the biggest, most difficult, most sensi-

tive, most important arms control issue now on the international agenda."

"(The situation) is a very dangerous one in terms of the long term stability, not only of the region, but the world at large," Mr. Evans said in Washington Thursday.

He said economic sanctions against North Korea were possible. "The ball is now in the Security Council's court."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Thursday referred North Korea's refusal to allow inspection of two suspected

nuclear plants to the United Nations, which has the power to impose punitive economic sanctions.

Following the IAEA decision, the United States, Russia and Britain — guarantors of the 1968 NPT — urged North Korea to comply fully with the pact.

The nuclear body, meeting in Vienna with North Korean delegates present, said the Communist state had failed to comply with a nuclear safeguards agreement and adopted a resolution urging the U.N. Security Council to intervene.

1st French 'cohabitation' cabinet meeting businesslike

PARIS (R) — France's Socialist President, François Mitterrand, came face to face with his new conservative government for the first time Friday at a cabinet meeting.

That apparently avoided cross-party animosity or rivalries.

"It was pleasant," the new Prime Minister Edouard Balladur told reporters on his way out of the presidential Elysee Palace.

Mr. Mitterrand's second period of "cohabitation" with a hostile government got off to a brisk, workmanlike start with Mr. Balladur ordering quick action on unemployment, security, the interior cities and GATT world trade talks.

"We will work rapidly but proceeding calmly... we don't want to make a show of needless hysteria," Budget Minister and government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy said in a briefing.

Asked about the atmosphere around the oval cabinet table, Mr. Sarkozy said: "The gravity of the situation does not allow one's emotions to overflow."

He said both Mr. Mitterrand and the government had been keen to get down to work.

The last period of "cohabitation" in 1986-88 was marked by bruising struggles of will between Mr. Mitterrand and the then Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Mr. Chirac is not in the cabinet this time, preferring to focus on the 1995 presidential election race, and Mr. Balladur has pledged a more consensual style of government.

There were nevertheless some noticeable changes. The presidential palace and the government held separate briefings after the meeting. Both sides eschewed a group photograph on the lawn of the Elysee Palace.

Clinton appeals to Americans, Russians to back Yeltsin reforms

WASHINGTON (R) — Even before his talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin start, President Bill Clinton is trying to muster support for Mr. Yeltsin's reforms among both Americans and Russians.

Mr. Clinton meets Mr. Yeltsin Saturday and Sunday in the western Canadian city of Vancouver for their first summit — a session that will be dominated by talk of aid increases rather than arms cuts.

During a speech Thursday to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, meeting in Annapolis, Maryland, Mr. Clinton sought to convince Americans they have a stake in Russia's future, while reassuring Russians they had friends in America.

"We cannot guarantee the future of reform in Russia or any of the other newly independent states," Mr. Clinton told his audience of mostly journalists.

"I know and you know that ultimately the history of Russia will be written by Russians, and the future of Russia must be charted by Russians," said Mr. Clinton, who was to travel Friday to the western U.S. state of Oregon for a conference on forest and environmental issues.

Lavishing praise on Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Clinton said he would use the summit with the Russian leader to assure him that "it is essential that we act prudently but urgently to do all that we can to strike a strategic alliance with Russian reform."

Mr. Clinton will unveil his plan for helping Russia Sunday at the end of his two-day exchange with Mr. Yeltsin — who has been locked in a power struggle with Russia's top legislature, escaping a bid to impeach him by just 72 votes.

In an unusual direct appeal to the Russian people, Mr. Clinton said, "as you seek to build a great tomorrow for Russia upon a foundation of democracy and commerce, I speak for Americans everywhere when I say we are with you for we share this bond."

"Our goal must be to ensure that the Russian people soon come to feel that they are the beneficiaries of reform and not its victims," he said.

Mr. Clinton, hoping to overcome the opposition of some Americans to increasing foreign aid while domestic programmes are cut back, stressed the perils that would arise if the reform movement failed.

"The danger is clear if Russia's reforms turn sour," Mr. Clinton said. "The world cannot afford the strife of the former Yugoslavia replicated in a nation as big as Russia, spanning 11 time zones, with an armed arsenal of nuclear weapons."

"The interests of all Americans lie with efforts that enhance our security and our prosperity," he said. "That's why our interests lie with Russian reform and with Russian reformers led by Boris Yeltsin."

"We must act now — not out of charity, but because it is a wise investment," Mr. Clinton said of the struggle to turn the former bastion of communism into a capital of democracy.

"While our efforts will entail new costs, we can reap even larger dividends for our safety and our prosperity if we act now," he said.

An administration official said Mr. Clinton's aid plan was expected to include more than \$500 million for the current fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

Another official said the money would be in addition to \$700 million that Clinton has asked Congress to approve for the next fiscal year.

China increases pressure on Hong Kong; appoints more advisers

PEKING (AP) — China prepared to appoint 49 Hong Kong advisers Friday in another move to bypass British input in preparing for the colony's transfer of power in 1997.

They join a first group of 44 Hong Kong advisers who were appointed last spring to two-year terms. For the first time, the advisory group includes three expatriates. Most notable among them is a former acting governor, Sir David Akers-Jones.

The advisers are expected to play a key role in preparing for the transfer of power and are prime candidates for posts in the first post-1997 government.

In addition, the Chinese legislature decided Wednesday to set up a formal preparatory committee made up of both Hong Kong residents and Chinese government officials.

That committee could be the seed of a "shadow government" that would rival British rule in

Hong Kong until 1997, and is a far greater threat to British authority than the loose advisory group.

China created the committee to pressure Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten to drop his proposal for expanding popular participation in local legislative elections. It is believed to be adding more advisers for the same reason.

China insists that Mr. Patten's proposal violates previous Sino-British agreements and makes it impossible for the two sides to cooperate in the future of Hong Kong.

The new advisers picked by Peking are mostly businessmen, professionals and politicians sympathetic to Peking's Communist government.

China has pledged that the advisory group will reflect Hong Kong's diverse population. For that reason, it has wanted to appoint expatriates.

However, none of the 93 advisers

is a legislator directly elected by the people — even though pro-democracy liberals swept 17 out of the 18 available seats in 1991 elections.

Sir David, who has lived half his life in Hong Kong and was once the No. 2 man in the British colonial government, has publicly criticised Mr. Patten's democratisation plan.

He said he wanted to be an adviser "because I want to do what I can to strengthen cooperation and understanding between Hong Kong and China."

He called it an important task "at a time when other channels of communication are failing to open up fresh channels."

When the new advisers left for Peking Thursday, they were met by about 20 protesters at the Hong Kong airport who accused them of selling out to China.

Meanwhile, Mr. Patten has admitted he is unlikely ever to

fulfil an ambition to become British prime minister.

In an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) broadcast Friday, Mr. Patten also said that vitriolic personal attacks from Peking had only strengthened support back home for his plans to widen the British colony's democracy.

Peking controlled media have repeatedly alleged that Mr. Patten's real motive is to grab personal glory to revive his British political career which abruptly ended when the cabinet minister lost his parliamentary seat last year.

"I don't think I'll ever be British prime minister," he told talk show host Larry King in an interview recorded a week ago.

But he added: "I'm not saying I wouldn't have liked to have been (prime minister) at different stages of my career because every politician wants to get to the top."

As chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr. Patten organised Prime Minister John Major's election victory last year but took on the job of governing Hong Kong in the run up to its 1997 return to China when he lost his own constituency.

Mr. Patten rejected speculation that Mr. Major, beset by economic and political problems, might not last long and this would open the way for his comeback.

"The present prime minister is about my age, he's extremely good and he's going to be there a long time," he said.

Mr. Patten also indicated his liberal political views would not be acceptable to right-wing Conservatives. "I'm from the left of my party and I think it's quite difficult to imagine someone from my stable becoming leader," he said.

However, he did say he wanted to continue in "public service" after his term in Hong Kong and

in one recent interview he hinted he was interested in the foreign secretary's job.

China, determined not to let any form of Western-style democracy take root on its southern border, has fought tooth and nail to sink Mr. Patten's plans since he announced them in October.

Peking's media mouthpieces have resorted frequently to personal abuse in the campaign and speculation has surfaced in the colony that London might recall Mr. Patten to defuse the row.

But Mr. Patten repeated assurances that he planned to stay in Hong Kong until the 1997 handover, saying he had the full support of Mr. Major and the British cabinet, and that there was no question that he might be recalled.

Britain's Hong Kong policy probably had wider cross-party support in parliament than any time in the past 20 years.

Results of AIDS drug study questioned

RIGA, Latvia (R) — A senior official of the British company which makes the AIDS drug AZT cast doubt Friday on a study which found no evidence that it delayed the onset of the killer disease.

Andrew Revell of Wellcome PLC, in Latvia for a two-day conference on AIDS, told Reuters AZT still had a big role to play in combating the disease.

He noted many patients had dropped out of the study, whose results were published Friday in the Lancet medical journal, and said he was not sure whether the report was representative.

"I would cast doubts on the results of the information, but even if the result is right I would still intervene (with medical treatment) early to help the quality of life of those living with HIV — AIDS."

The study, the most comprehensive trial of the drug yet, concluded there was no evidence that taken by HIV sufferers it delayed the onset of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Chances for N. Ireland peace talks reduced

DUBLIN (R) — Protestant unionists have reacted angrily to Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds's defence of the Irish constitution, significantly reducing the chances of resuming Northern Ireland peace talks soon.

The unionists, who want the province to remain British, accused Mr. Reynolds of being belligerent in a speech to the Dublin parliament Thursday.

Their dismissal of his speech virtually put paid to any lingering hopes of an early resumption to peace talks to try to end one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts.

Britain is trying to return Northern Ireland to some form of local power-sharing government after two decades of direct rule from London. The talks collapsed last year.

The sticking point for the unionists is the territorial claim in the Irish constitution to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Reynolds told parliament the present constitution meant a great deal to Northern Irish nationalists.

"Any attempt in a political vacuum to walk away from constitutional republicanism would be a very dangerous exercise and would most certainly provide a new recruiting platform for terrorism."

COLUMN

Siamese twins separated

CAPE TOWN (R) — A team of eight South African surgeons separated 10-month-old Siamese twin girls joined at the pelvis in a 14-hour operation Thursday. Hospital officials said Friday the girls, Catherine and Helena Kock, had a reasonable chance of being able to walk normally. The girls had been able only to lie on their backs. They had separate but fused pelvic bones and lower spines, one kidney each and shared a colon and some sexual organs.

Thieves seek ransom for Japanese cartoonist's bones

TOKYO (R) — Grave robbers have demanded a ransom for the bones of one of Japan's best-loved cartoonists, a police spokesman said Friday. Family members told police last week that robbers had taken the bones of Machiko Hasegawa from her grave in a Tokyo suburb and sent a letter demanding money and a picture of the urn containing her bones. On police instruction, the family followed the extortionists' demands and placed an advertisement in a newspaper to indicate they were ready to pay. There was no response. A second letter arrived Friday, but police declined to discuss the case further. "I'm afraid there are some things that we cannot release because of the uniqueness of the case," one spokesman said. The daily Mainichi Shimbun said it would have taken more than one person to lift the gravestone, which weighs about 150 kilograms. The work of Hasegawa, one of Japan's earliest cartoonists, was widely enjoyed in newspapers, television and books until her death last May at the age of 72. One of her most successful creations was the Isono Family, which spanned three generations and had seven members.

The Mao jacket may be gone for good

PEKING (AP) — A bastion of socialist fashion in China is on the way out, the victim of Western influence. The Mao jacket is no longer in vogue. The drab, high-collared coat was standard attire for millions of Chinese for decades. It became known in the West as the Mao jacket, named after revolutionary leader Mao Tse-Tung. But its association with old-guard Communists has steadily eroded its popularity in recent years and the Western-style jacket with lapels is back. Whenever television news anchors switch from double-breasted suits to Mao suits, viewers start to frown at a return to hard-line policies. The Meidu Clothing Factory in Peking, renowned for its Mao suits, stopped making the jackets last year because it already had warehouses stuffed with several tens of thousands of them, the Peking daily reported. The factory was forced to slash prices by 60 per cent, but it and other manufacturers of Mao jackets are still having a hard time finding outlets. When one of Peking's new fashionable department stores opened last year, they set up a Mao suit counter, but business was so bad that they got rid of it. Major department stores, which serve thousands of customers a day, sell only four to five Mao suits on an ordinary day, the paper said. But the paper said the Mao suit can be saved if manufacturers target middle-aged and old people and peasants from the countryside. The paper quoted an official of the Peking Clothing Co. as saying that with new materials, colours and styles, the Mao suit would win back buyers.

Paper apologises for April Fool's joke

PEKING (AP) — One of China's stiff official newspapers pulled a rare April fool's joke, but Friday its editors said the joke was on them. The editorial office of the China Youth Daily (Zhongguo Qingnian Bao) published an apology on the front page for Thursday's prank, which consisted of a full page of fake news stories. Among the stories: An announcement that Ph.D. holders are exempt from the one-child limit, and that a major eastern city was installing pipes to deliver beer-on-tap to residents' homes. There were several warnings on the page that the stories were not true, but the editors said some readers were still fooled. "This action is not suited to the normal reading habits of Chinese," they wrote. "We feel that it was not serious, so we apologise to society and our readers." No other newspapers made any attempt at humour on April Fool's Day, a Western custom that few Chinese have heard about.